

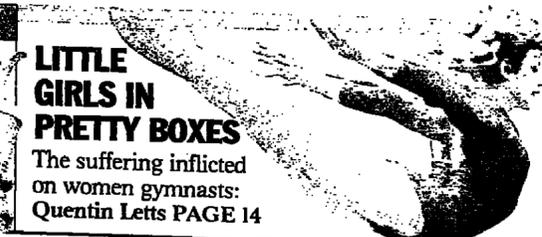


THE TIMES GREAT SUMMER OF SPORT

SEVE'S LYTHAM AND BLUES
John Hopkins recalls a thrilling Open climax
PAGE 42



LITTLE GIRLS IN PRETTY BOXES
The suffering inflicted on women gymnasts: Quentin Letts PAGE 14



ANTHONY HOWARD
Trouble with liberal newspapers PAGE 16



BEST OF ENEMIES?
How TV's Friends are sticking together against the boss PAGE 13



Seven held in bomb factory raids

IRA blitz on gas and water plants foiled

By Stewart Tandler and Bill Frost

AN IRA plot to blast gas, water and power installations and cause massive disruption to London and the South East was foiled by Scotland Yard detectives yesterday.

Hours before the first bomb was due to be primed, armed police raided houses in south London and discovered 36 devices under construction. Seven men were arrested and last night police were hunting for a cache of up to 180lbs of Semtex. The head of the Anti-Terrorist Branch said that the bombers had been stopped "in the nick of time".

Their targets would have included electricity switching centres, pumping stations and gas plants. Bombs may also have been destined for the rail network and police are studying several lists of other potential targets.

Police believe small but powerful bombs would have been used and the devices were similar to a new design first seen in a huge explosives find at Clonsilla, Co Laois, two weeks ago.

The bombings would have been the most ambitious campaign mounted by the IRA in mainland Britain. The terrorist high command abandoned the use of young, unknown recruits and is believed to have gathered some of its most experienced hands. At least one of the men held is suspected of operating on the mainland before.

One police source said: "This is the A-team." Another senior officer said: "This is one of the best operations we have had and this was a first-class team the IRA put out. We have headed off some of the most important and experienced players they have sent over here for some years."

Three of the suspects were held at a house in Lugard Road, Peckham, as police fired "rip rounds" of CS dust into the building. One was seized as he tried to flee naked. Inside the house police found 36 time and power units, laid out charged and ready to be linked to explosive. Another four men were arrested in Woodbury Road, Tooting.

Peace meeting

John Major promised last night to "try again and again" to remove the obstacles to peace in Northern Ireland as he launched moves to patch up the bitter rift in Anglo-Irish relations. The Prime Minister criticised John Bruton's attack on the British Government's handling of the Orange dispute as unhelpful but agreed to Dublin's request for an early formal meeting. He said that the only people "rubbing their hands with glee" were the IRA who had scored a propaganda victory..... Page 10

after police smashed the hinges of the front door with a special shotgun round.

The raids followed a surveillance operation launched two weeks ago. Teams of Special Branch detectives and MI5 officers followed members of a large active service unit as they reconnoitred utilities in and around London. They also used special equipment to watch a network of addresses across south London.

After the arrests, Commander John Grieve, head of the Anti-Terrorist Branch, said: "I believe we were only a few hours away from grave loss of life and serious disruption to ways of life in the capital and the South East." Commander Grieve said the men were being questioned about the campaign and the arrests were not being linked to any other IRA attacks.

After the raids, Bill Pulman, who lives opposite the run-down Victorian house in Lugard Road, described how he had seen a naked man jump from a side window as police fired CS gas rounds at the front door of number 61. "They were banging to get in and he went out of the side. Then two armed officers held him at gunpoint," he said.

Mr Pulman had been woken by shouting and other loud noises from the street at about 2am. "When I looked, I think there must have been 60

officers out there. They tried to break the front door in, but couldn't. Then they smashed the front windows to get inside. There was some banging which I thought was gunshots. But now I know was the gas canisters being fired."

Last night a large green tarpaulin covered the front of the building. Scene-of-crime officers and forensic scientists came and went constantly through a flap.

Tom Johnstone, a garage owner whose yard overlooks the back garden of number 61, was told by detectives that the search could last a week. He said police spent hours taking boxes out of the house. "My first thought once it sank in was how easy it might have been to trigger one of these devices - we use mobile telephones here all the time."

Another man said that the house had been bought by a family two years ago who planned to turn it into a gym. The neighbour said they had fallen behind on their mortgage repayments and the property had been vacant.

Four miles away in the similarly run-down Woodbury Street, a woman described how the police emerged from number 58 carrying two men whose ankles and wrists were tightly taped together. They lay them on the pavement face down and searched them at gunpoint, she said.

Some hours later, the police took away a dark Peugeot 405 saloon found near by. Two more homes near Woodbury Street were also raided, but no arrests were reported. Police in the Irish Republic found 16 mortar bombs loaded with Semtex during the raid in Clonsilla, Dublin's Special Criminal Court was told yesterday. They also found 36 timing units, 30 kg of Semtex, detonators, 44 mortar launch tubes and propulsion units. Michael Cully, 46, a farmer from Clonsilla, was remanded in custody on explosives charges.

Trying again, page 10
Letters, page 17



Imran Khan arriving at the High Court in London yesterday with his wife, Jemima, and his counsel in his libel battle, George Carman QC

Botham opens batting against Imran Khan

By Joanna Bale

IAN BOTHAM went into the witness box in the High Court yesterday to defend himself and English cricket against what he sees as Imran Khan's allegations of cheating, racism and lack of class.

The former England captain is suing Imran for libel over an article in *The Sun* in which he said that illegal ball-tampering was common among fast bowlers.

Botham and his England colleague Allan Lamb are also suing the former Pakistani captain over an article in *India Today* magazine which Charles Gray, QC, described as an offensive personal attack. "Firstly, he called them racists. Secondly, he called them uneducated. And thirdly, he accused them of lacking class and upbringing."

The case, which is expected to last ten days in Court 13 could cost the loser £500,000 in costs alone. George Carman, QC, is representing Imran, who sat with his pregnant wife Jemima, demure in a pale blue kameez, at the front of the court.

Botham - in navy suit, Robin Smith testimonial tie and his wayward locks uncharacteristically shorn - said: "I've come to this court because I was very proud of what I achieved in sport and to be called racist - which is one thing I have fought against for most of my life - and to be called a cheat is something I take great offence to."

"I don't really care if a guy is green or yellow or has pink spots and comes from Mars -

if I'm playing sport against him, I'm playing sport against him. I like to think I could touch down anywhere in the world and knock on someone's door and, whatever creed or nationality, they would be pleased to see me and I would be pleased to see them." As for ball-tampering, he had never broken the laws of the game: "I've never thought it was necessary."

Mr Gray told the jury that Imran had admitted in his

autobiography that he had tampered with the ball and had claimed in *The Sun* that it had been going on for 20 years. "The biggest names of English cricket have all done it and when I say 'big names' I mean as big as you can get."

Although not named, Mr Gray said that Botham believed that the inference was that he, too, had been guilty. Imran denies libel, claiming the words are not capable of the defamatory meaning.

In the *India Today* article, Imran was reported to have said that the ball tampering issue had been blown out of all

proportion because of racism and the class problem in English cricket. Those who took the "rational side" in the controversy - Tony Lewis, Christopher Martin-Jenkins and Derek Pringle - were all educated Oxbridge types. "Look at the others - Lamb, Botham, Trueman. The difference in class and upbringing makes a difference."

Botham, the secondary-modern educated son of a serviceman, told the court: "I don't quite understand what class has to do with it."

Imran's admission, page 3



"My husband's in. I just want to know what he's made"



Botham: "never found cheating necessary"

Twins tragedy

Siamese twins born in a Glasgow hospital last week died in their parents' arms yesterday. The girls shared a heart and a lung, and doctors decided not to try to separate them because the parents did not want to sacrifice one for the other. The mother had been told only hours before delivery that something was wrong..... Page 3

Law Society chief voted out after turbulent year

By Frances Gibb, Legal Correspondent

MARTIN MEARS, the controversial president of the Law Society, was ousted from office last night after a knife-edge vote in which he was defeated by just over 600 votes.

He lost to Tony Girling, 52, a long-standing Law Society council member, by 641 votes, after the most turbulent year in the profession's history during which Mr Mears alienated large numbers of solicitors by his provocative statements and in particular his attacks on what he saw as the fashionable ideology of "political correctness".

A total of 32,437 solicitors turned out to vote - 45 per cent of those eligible in England and Wales - and ended Mr Mears' revolutionary era as leader of the solicitors' profession.

Mr Girling, managing partner in his own 27-partner firm Girlings, in Canterbury,

polled 15,911 votes against Mr Mears' 15,239 votes. The other candidates in Mr Girling's team were also successful: Phillip Sycamore, a personal injuries lawyer, defeated Robert Sayer, now vice-president, by 16,319 votes to 14,852. Likewise, the third candidate



Mears: alienated large number of solicitors

in the team, Michael Mathews of Clifford Chance, the City law firm, defeated David Keating, a high street practitioner of Hartlepool, by 16,080 votes to 14,359.

Last night Mr Mears issued a statement from his home in Norfolk, pledging that he would stand again. "I warmly congratulate Tony Girling and his associates on their victory," he said. "I will give them every assistance and co-operation for the benefit of the profession - particularly in opposing the legal aid White Paper."

Mr Girling said after his triumph that it would not be "business as usual" - an indication that he did not want to turn the Law Society back to the pre-Mears era. He said: "I dedicate myself to the service of the whole profession." He pledged to promote client service and access to justice.

British Energy loss for small investors

By Christine Buckley

SMALL shareholders who bought shares in British Energy yesterday saw their investment slump 10 per cent in the worst privatisation since the market collapse in 1987 hit the BP offering. No other government sell-off has plunged to less than the original price on the first day of trading.

Private investors are further frustrated by the fact that they cannot bail out of their shares because they will not get certificates until the middle of next week and will only then know how many shares they have been issued.

The shares opened at 103p, the price of the institutional offering, but ended at 94p, having touched a low of 92½p. This was despite BZW, the Government's brokers, having weighed in to the market to try to support the price. Some 606,000 applied for shares at a discounted rate of 100p. Shareholders should

start receiving the certificates by the end of the two-week closure of Hinkley Point B and Hunterston B, when it should be known if the stations need to remain closed for longer.

The stations were shut for technical problems hours after the end of the public offer. Institutions still had time then to decide whether they wanted to invest.

Bob Hawley, British Energy's chief executive, denied that the small investors had been misled and said that the prospectus had drawn attention to the technical issues.

Shareholders who bought the minimum allocation of 300 shares lost £18 yesterday and it will cost them a further £20 in fees to sell. Labour accused the Government of selling off British Energy against economic sense.

Price drops, page 23
Pennington, page 25

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9 770140 046220

TV & RADIO	42, 43
WEATHER	22
CROSSWORDS	22, 44

LETTERS	17
OBITUARIES	19
ANTHONY HOWARD	16

ARTS	35-37
CHESS & BRIDGE	38
COURT & SOCIAL	18

SPORT	38-42, 44
BODY & MIND	14
LAW REPORT	21

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If only the Grand Old Duke of York had Sir Patrick to explain

TOTAL cock-up always brings out the best in the British, who cease carping and flock loyally to the defence of their leaders. In the Commons to discuss a cock-up of majestic proportions, the Northern Ireland Secretary found MPs ready to commiserate than to blame.

Sir Patrick Mayhew steeled his troops with masterly authority. After his impassioned defence of Northern Ireland's Chief Constable, he realised that the Grand Old Duke of York was anything

but wobbly. His ten thousand men were fortunate in their General. His Grace was a tower of strength: firm of purpose, a Hercules — but with bad PR. If the Duke had had Sir Patrick to explain, he would now be a national hero.

But surely, you ask, he did march his troops to the top of the hill? And surely he did march them down again?

Ah, but the situation had changed while they were on the hilltop! And, as Sir Patrick put it yesterday, "it would have been a weak man who,

recognising that circumstances had deteriorated gravely since the original decision, nonetheless, through fears of facile accusations of a U-turn, held — in quite different circumstances — to the original decision."

Lacking Sir Patrick's advocacy, the Duke of York's reputation has succumbed to those facile accusations. It could have been so different. Oh, the Grand Old Duke of York.

He had ten thousand men. He marched them up to the



top of the hill. And, fearless in the face of facile accusations of a U-turn, he marched them down again.

The Northern Ireland Secretary received a restrained and mostly sympathetic reception in Parliament yesterday. Flanked by a Prime

Minister who looked profoundly depressed, he found only a few ready to point the finger of blame in any direction, and Mo Mowlam (his Labour Shadow) prepared only unwittingly to echo Peter Simple's fictional Dr Heinz Kiosk: "We are all to blame," she cried. But that's how it goes in British politics. If you

slip on a banana skin, everybody screams for your resignation. If you tip over the whole fruit-barrow, everyone calls for restraint at this moment of grave tension and national perplexity.

Peter Brooke, Sir Patrick's predecessor as Northern Ireland Secretary, listened in silence. Mr Brooke once sang *Oh My Darling Clementine* on Irish television. It brought down upon his head the abuse of the whole political establishment and the British media. He offered his resigna-

tion, staggered on, but never completely recovered. But that was because we all know the tune of *Clementine*. The affair amounted to no more than a small silliness. MPs understood the issues, and we were pleased to have an opinion on it.

Yesterday was different. MPs were faced not with a gaffe, but a monumental blunder. They were therefore out of their depth. It is unfortunate for Mr Brooke that he did not mortar-bomb the headquarters of Irish Television. Instead of singing a song on it. He would then have been regarded as controversial rather than silly, his decision debated as a "difficult" one.

Among the few who spoke unambiguously, Dennis Skinner noted the Government's insistence that it stood aloof from operational decisions by chief constables. The aloofness, he said, was selective: it was a pity Arthur Scargill and his striking miners had not worn orange sashes and bowler hats.

Blair puts fairness first for industrial policies

BY ANDREW PIERCE, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TONY BLAIR last night promised the business community that he would not sign up to measures in the Social Chapter that would damage Britain's competitiveness.

In a letter to 10,000 businesses, the Labour leader said that he was aware that the Social Chapter and the minimum wage caused concern but insisted that he would only agree to policies that promoted fairness.

"A new Labour government will insist that any new measures adopted under the Social Chapter promote fairness, not inflexibility. It will not be used to import foreign social security systems or ways of organising the boardroom," he wrote.

Mr Blair accused the Tories of gross distortion of the contents of the Social Chapter. "There are in fact only two measures agreed under it. Consultation for employees in Europe-wide companies and parental leave. Neither of these pose any threat whatsoever to the competitiveness of British companies. Indeed, many of our largest firms have voluntarily adopted works councils."

Mr Blair also made clear that a Labour government would be reasonable in its approach to setting up a minimum wage. "A figure will not be plucked out of the air arrived at by an arbitrary formula. There will be full consultation with business, including small firms, and proper account will be taken of the economic situation."

"I hope that by making clear our plans, I will assure you of new Labour's commitment to the success of British business. My aim is to create a constructive and positive partnership between business and a Labour government."

Goldsmith's Labour militants, page 16

Joan Lestor creates gap in Shadow Cabinet

BY PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

LABOUR'S Shadow Cabinet elections took a fresh twist yesterday when Joan Lestor, the veteran leftwinger and Shadow Minister for Overseas Development, announced that she would not be standing in next week's poll.

Her decision, creating an unexpected vacancy in Labour's 19-strong elected high command, raised the prospect of a larger field entering the race than had been thought likely.

Supporters of Tony Blair are clearly hoping that the existing team will be re-elected, with Jack Cunningham, the Shadow Heritage Secretary, eliminated last year, replacing Miss Lestor.

Miss Lestor's move may boost Harriet Harman's chances of re-election but Dawn Primarolo, a member of Gordon Brown's Treasury team, was also considering her options last night.

As a prominent leftwinger and long-time member of the Campaign Group, Ms Primarolo is regarded as more likely than Ms Harman to pick up Miss Lestor's votes. All Labour MPs have to cast votes for at least four women. A fierce campaign involving

members of the front bench is under way to support Ms Harman, the Shadow Health Secretary, in her efforts to survive the furore over her decision to send her son to a grammar school. In the end, Ms Primarolo may be dissuaded from standing. Today in the Commons Ms Harman has an opportunity to shine during questions to Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary.

It is understood that Miss Lestor has been suffering from a form of exhaustion and has been given medical advice to take a break from front-line politics.

She said: "It is with great sadness that I am stepping down from the Shadow Cabinet on medical advice.

"The job is too important not to have the full energy that it deserves and which, with regret, I am unable to give."

Ms Lestor served as a minister in the Wilson and Callaghan governments but has been happy to take a series of low-profile posts on overseas development, children and the family.

She said Labour's new overseas development paper provided for a new Department for International Development headed by a Cabinet minister. She added: "This is a key post which will make significant demands on its incumbent."

Ms Lestor's long political career started when she joined the party 41 years ago. She went on to become a councillor and was elected MP for Eton and Slough in 1966. She resigned as a minister in 1976 over education cuts.

She lost her seat in 1983 but was returned as MP for Eccles in 1987 and has held a succession of frontbench posts and served on the National Executive Committee.



Lestor: joined Labour Party 41 years ago



Mark Payne and 6ft Zina Emelianova, who is temporarily protecting him

GP hires Russian wrestler to protect him on night calls

A FAMILY doctor worried about his safety during night visits has hired a world champion woman wrestler as a bodyguard.

Dr Mark Payne had become so intimidated by gangs of youngsters during his night calls in Birmingham that he signed up Zina Emelianova, who is 6ft 2ins and 14 stone. She is the reigning world champion at sambo wrestling, a form of self-defence popular in her native Russia. Her prowess has attracted the makers of the James Bond films, who have approached her about a part in the next 007 movie.

Dr Payne said he decided to draft in Ms Emelianova after a call at the weekend when he was attacked by a dog and threatened by a patient's relative. "I don't think anyone would be mad enough to take on Ira in a fight," he said.

"I know she rather lives up to the stereotype of the macho Russian woman but she is gentle at heart. Still, when she is at work the only thing on her mind is to protect me — and she does that with extreme prejudice. She takes no prisoners."

Ms Emelianova, who is in Birmingham on holiday with her husband Constantin Tinovitski, is famous in her homeland as a wrestler. She commands a huge salary for her sideline as a bodyguard, working for women politicians and daughters of prominent personalities.

Dr Payne befriended Mr Tinovitski while the couple were on a visit to Britain 18 months ago and invited them over for a return visit. He said Ms Emelianova would be on stand-by for the next week before she returns home to begin her preparations for the next world sambo wrestling championships in Japan.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Church recovers from £800m loss

The Church of England has returned to a sound financial position after losing £800 million on property investments in the 1980s, its General Synod meeting in York, was told yesterday. Latest figures show that the Church Commissioners have recouped most of the losses and now manage assets of £2.7 billion.

Sir Michael Colman, First Church Estates Commissioner, said that churchgoers had responded generously to the need for increased giving. He added, however: "It is, naturally, taking some time for church people to forgive the commissioners for past mistakes and to understand that there is simply not enough money from the historic assets to pay for everything." Dean of Lincoln attacks Carey, page 4

Government banker sale

The agency that pays the pensions of some 1.6 million public servants and acts as banker to the Government is to be privatised. David Heathcoat-Amory, the Paymaster General, announced the sell-off of the Paymaster Agency in a Commons written reply yesterday. The agency operates some 1,800 bank accounts for government departments, NHS trusts and other public sector bodies.

Pay reform for Forces

Defence chiefs want a flexible pay structure to reward skills, experience and performance in the Armed Forces, it was disclosed yesterday. Pay rates should overlap between ranks, so those doing well can be paid more even if they cannot be promoted, they argue in recommendations to ministers after reviewing the Bett report into pay and conditions. They reject the proposal to end pensions for those leaving at 40.

Ignorance on drugs

Nine out of ten teenagers responding to a survey on drug use said they were ignorant of the effects of Ecstasy and similar substances. The majority of 50,000 schoolchildren questioned after the death of Leah Betts said they wanted tough, factual drug education. Many found existing programmes patronising and almost half assumed that Ecstasy was safe if there were no ill-effects on first taking it.

Massive heroin haul

Customs officers in Calais have found £11 million worth of heroin in a lorry destined for England via the Channel Tunnel. The haul, the biggest in France since 1972, came after a routine check on a British lorry last Thursday. It included amphetamines, cocaine, synthetic drugs and cannabis. The British driver, who came from Holland, through Belgium to France, is being held in custody.

Featherweight fortune

A feather-filled golf ball worth two shillings and sixpence in 1840 sold for £10,925 at an auction of golfing memorabilia in Glasgow. A gill Open Championship medal won in 1885 at the Royal and Ancient Golf Club at St Andrews sold for £27,600, while a printed pamphlet of the Rules and Regulations of the Royal Perth Golfing Society dating from 1834, which shaped the modern game, went for a similar sum.

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Tories avert Forces homes sale revolt

BY ANDREW PIERCE, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

MINISTERS appear to have averted a Tory backbench revolt today over the proposed sale of 60,000 Armed Forces married quarters thanks to a report that gives backing to the plan.

The Commons Defence Select Committee has brought forward to today the publication of its report into the sale of the married quarters. It gives qualified support to the sell-off, which would include a £100 million upgrade for military homes.

But at least two Tory MPs have vowed to vote for a Labour motion calling for more consultation with military families before the sale goes ahead. Julian Brazier, MP for Canterbury, said: "I will feel I have no alternative. I have been opposed to this all along." Cyril Townsend, MP

for Bexleyheath, and Nicholas Winterton, MP for Macclesfield, have also been highly critical.

Defence ministers, led by James Arbutnot, yesterday tried to win round the rebels.

The Select Committee report, which was passed unanimously, will still make uncomfortable reading for Michael Portillo, the Defence Secretary. It contains sharp criticism of the timing and handling of the sale.

"It has been a fiasco," said one senior committee member. "The report is highly critical of the way the issue has been presented although broadly we support the policy."

But the report will also make clear that the committee does not believe that the £100 million upgrade is enough.

Hunt is on for life in parallel solar system

THE search for extraterrestrial life has been given added impetus by the discovery of an Earth-like solar system 65 light years away (Nick Nuttall writes).

British scientists said yesterday that they were hoping to launch a spacecraft to see if the new system might harbour a planet with an atmosphere able to support life.

Dr Helen Walker, of the Rutherford Appleton Laboratory, said a proposal had been accepted by the European Space Agency to build up to four spacecraft in a project codenamed Darwin. "The spacecraft would be able to

detect ozone, the gas that shields the Earth from the Sun's rays and makes our planet habitable. "Stars do not make ozone, only Earth-like planets do. It is hoped to have Darwin launched by 2015," she said.

The Earth-like solar system, which has a star called Vega at its heart, was first seen in 1983. Dr Walker said the solar system is, edge to edge, 900 Astronomical Units or 93 billion miles wide. "It is a similar size to ours and Vega is about as old as our Sun."

Dr Walker added: "It is possible that we might find life."

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Doctors ruled out separating girls Siamese twins die in parents' arms days after birth

By Shirley English and Jeremy Laurance

THE Siamese twins who were born sharing a heart died last night in hospital in Glasgow. A spokesman at the Queen Mother's Hospital in Yorkhill said that the baby girls died in their parents' arms after they were taken off ventilation following a serious deterioration in their condition.

Doctors had virtually ruled out any attempt to separate the twins after the parents said that they did not want one sacrificed to save the other. The deaths had been expected: doctors had said that the girls would probably survive only days or weeks.

the girls were born by Caesarean section with a combined weight of 11lb. Until the final check, the mother had had only one scan at between eight and 12 weeks and a blood test at 15 weeks. Dr Hanretty, who helped at the birth, declined to comment on why the abnormalities went undetected for so long. He said that it was usual practice for women to have a scan only at the beginning and end of uncomplicated pregnancies. "Ordinary twin pregnancies may not be detected on the one scan. A conjoined pregnancy can be picked up at an early stage, but to say it is always picked up is quite wrong."



Dr Hanretty and Dr Holland: backed the parents

Lorry driver 'planned to dump body in Italy'

A LONG-distance lorry driver planned to dump his wife's body in Italy after he strangled her, a court was told yesterday. His plan was foiled when his bosses sent him on local errands.

Doctor in waitress case will return to his job

By Lin Jenkins

A CONSULTANT gynaecologist who was convicted of indecently assaulting a waitress by putting his hand up her skirt is to return to work later this week. Edward Shaxted, 49, had been suspended from his job at Northampton General Hospital since the charges were brought against him two months ago.

likely that he will be given a reprimand. "We are entirely separate from the hospital, it is the employer and we act in relation to the doctor's registration," the GMC said.



Shaxted: backed by chief executive of hospital

allowed to keep his job. "It was not an easy decision," Dr Lloyd said. "We needed to draw a line under this since the court has dealt with him and sentenced him. There has been huge support for his reinstatement."

Partner in Mills & Boon dies aged 79

By Alan Hamilton

ONE of the most famous and most respected names in British publishing has died aged 79. John Boon, half of the most successful partnership in the history of romantic fiction, lived just long enough to see the chaotic ground rules of Mills & Boon, an imprint which sells 15 million copies a year in Britain alone and 200 million worldwide, denied by the intrusion of more or less explicit coupling.

1908 by Mr Boon's father, Charles, and a colleague, Gerald Mills, both former employees of Methuen. Mr Boon inherited a seat on the board from his father and in the 1970s sold the pillar of British downmarket publishing to a Canadian firm, Harlequin.

into sado-masochism, rape and condoms, although the editors continued to grasp at the fraying threads of discretion.

He became a director of the company's Canadian parent, which two years ago ripped the bodice off tradition by sacking Mills & Boon's British managing director and editorial director, paving the way for heroines as career women with fax machines.



The scene at the High Court yesterday as Ian Botham gave evidence. Imran Khan, third from left, denies libelling Botham and Allan Lamb

Imran accused of 'gratuitous insult' to Botham and Lamb in ball-tampering row

By Tim Jones

THE former Pakistan cricket captain Imran Khan made a "dramatic admission" in an authorised biography published in May 1994, Charles Gray, QC, told the High Court yesterday.

alleging that Sarfraz had tampered with a cricket ball. That libel action was dropped after four days and Lamb, in an interview, said that Sussex players had knowledge of that kind of thing happening when Imran was playing as their captain.

South Africa. In his interview, Imran had said there was a lot of racism in British society. "Look at people like Lamb and Botham saying 'I never thought much of him anyway and look at him now and he has been proved a cheat.'"

Rule 42 of the laws of cricket states that a player should not lift the seam of the ball or take any action which altered its condition. New cricket balls were handed to the jury, the judge and Imran's QC, George Carman, as Mr Gray explained the principles of swing-bowling and seam-bowling.

Advertisement for Forte Hotels featuring a list of hotels and their postcodes, a large image of a couple, and promotional text: 'TWO NIGHTS, DINNER, BED & BREAKFAST FROM £26.50 PER PERSON, PER NIGHT STAY BEFORE 1 SEPTEMBER'. Includes phone number 0345 404040 and website URL.

Aspiring barristers face big dinner bill in training reforms

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

HUNDREDS of trainee barristers will have to travel to London from regional universities to eat traditional qualifying dinners under plans to expand training for the Bar. Some will log more than 10,000 miles.

The decision, made on Saturday by the profession's governing body, ends the monopoly on the training of barristers in London by the Inns of Court School of Law (Bar School) from autumn next year. It will also oblige would-be advocates to travel to the Inns of Court in London to eat dinners in hall.

Bar students must still eat a total of 18 dinners as part of their training. The idea is that they mingle in the dining hall with judges and senior barristers and absorb the ethos of the profession.

Students at the University of Northumbria at Newcastle, for instance, will have to travel more than 10,000 miles to qualify as barristers: the

round trip of 548 miles multiplied by 18. A trip by train from Newcastle would cost £198 return with an overnight stay, a total of £356.4.

The cost will add considerably to the expense of their course, which is unlikely to be much less than the £5,000 charged to Bar students in London. There have been moves to reduce the number of dinners that Bar students must eat or, alternatively, to combine these with a training weekend or conference, but these are on hold until other Bar reforms are implemented.

The seven bodies validated to run the Bar vocational course are the BPP Law School in London; the College of Law (both full and part-time courses) in London, which is the main training body for solicitors; the Inns of Court School of Law; Nottingham Law School; the University of Northumbria at Newcastle; and the University of the West of England (Bristol), with the

Cardiff Law School. They will provide a total of 1,430 places compared with the 1,100 offered now.

The expansion was generally welcomed yesterday but there was criticism that two of the Bar's biggest regional centres, Birmingham and Manchester, were not represented. Nigel Savage, incoming chief executive of the College of Law, which trains more than half of all solicitors in England and Wales, said that his college would produce a "Rolls-Royce" course for barristers.

But he added: "My own concern is that the outcome of the process means that there will be no course in a major provincial centre — such as Birmingham or Manchester. That is not the fault of the Bar Council. They must maintain basic standards and not allow under-resourced or inadequate courses to be run."

Law, pages 21, 31, 33

Race to find £2m to stop export of painting

By PETER FOSTER

THE fate of an important 17th-century painting by the Italian artist Il Guercino is uncertain today after a government order delaying its export to America expired at midnight last night.

Timothy Clifford, director of the National Galleries of Scotland, was given six months to raise more than £2m million to match a bid from the Getty Museum in Los Angeles for *Erminia Finding The Wounded Tancred*.

The picture, which has hung in Castle Howard in Yorkshire since 1772, is considered one of the masterpieces of Guercino's late work and part of the national heritage. A private sale, agreed between its owner, Simon Howard, and the Getty Museum, has been delayed in Whitehall for six months to give the National Galleries time to save the painting for the nation.

The vivid picture, which is the last Guercino remaining in private hands, depicts a scene from Torquato Tasso's



Export ban lifted: *Erminia Finding the Wounded Tancred*, by Il Guercino

epic 16th-century poem on the Crusades. Dating from 1649-50, it was bought to England in 1772 during the golden years of English collecting by Frederick Howard, fifth Earl of Carlisle.

Mr Clifford said yesterday that he was still short of the total needed but was "reasonably optimistic" that the money could be raised. The Heritage Lottery Fund has

already promised £1.5 million if Mr Clifford raises a further £500,000.

Last night the National Art Collections Fund was meeting to discuss an application for a further £300,000 grant, leaving Mr Clifford in need of a further £100,000 to £200,000 to match the Getty bid.

Yesterday the Heritage Department said that the export deferral order would expire at

midnight and that the Secretary of State would be reviewing the situation over the next few days.

Mr Clifford's fight to save the painting comes two years after he led a successful campaign by the National Galleries of Scotland and the Victoria and Albert Museum to stop the Getty Museum from buying Canova's sculpture *The Three Graces*.

Fiancée of road rage victim in car crash

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

POLICE engineers have examined a car driven by the fiancée of Stephen Cameron, murdered in May in an apparent road rage incident, after it was involved in an accident at the weekend.

Danielle Cable, 17, had been driving home after visiting Mr Cameron's parents in Swanley, Kent, when the accident happened on the A20. She was with Mr Cameron, 21, when he was stabbed to death during a roadside argument with the driver of a Land Rover Discovery only four miles away, off the M25, in May.

Ms Cable escaped without serious injury after the accident at Orpington, southeast London, on Saturday in which her Ford Escort rolled down a 50ft embankment. No other vehicle was involved. She managed to climb back to the road and flagged down a vehicle.

After fears that the car might have been sabotaged, police engineers examined it for tampering but yesterday declared there had been nothing wrong with it.

Dean of Lincoln attacks Carey for resignation call

By RUTH GLEDHILL AND PAUL WILKINSON

THE Dean of Lincoln criticised the Archbishop of Canterbury yesterday after he called publicly for the resignation of the Dean and sub-Dean.

The Very Rev Brandon Jackson was on holiday considering his position when Dr George Carey called on him and Canon Rex Davis, his sub-Dean, to resign. In a statement issued yesterday on his return, Dr Jackson, 61, said: "It is regrettable that a matter which the Archbishop held out to those whom he met with as being 'private and pastoral' should have been projected by him into the public domain."

"While a private arrangement between Church members, be they so-called dignitaries of the Church or not, is one thing, such a public pronouncement with attendant press conference trappings has overtones that do not seem appropriate to the structure of legal relationships or for precedent-setting methodology."

Canon Davis has already said that he has no intention of stepping down. At the time of the Archbishop's intervention Church sources said that the Dean probably would go, choosing his moment to preserve dignity, but yesterday Dr Jackson said that Dr Carey's highly public actions and Canon Davis's subsequent comments had altered the situation and he was considering his position anew.

The Dean has been at loggerheads with clerical colleagues at Lincoln Cathedral since his appointment in 1989, on the recommendation of Margaret Thatcher, to sort out problems in the administra-

tion. They stem from a disastrous venture in 1988 when the cathedral's copy of Magna Carta was sent on exhibition to Australia, costing the cathedral more than £50,000 and the Australian Government almost £600,000.

Dr Jackson is convinced that accusations of sexual impropriety brought against him a year ago — and subsequently dismissed — were part of a plot to get rid of him. The woman involved, Verity Frystone, a cathedral verger who has since resigned and renounced her faith, is planning a civil action against him.

Last week Dr Carey, who has no powers to dismiss the two warring clerics, called a press conference to beg them to give up their posts at Lincoln. He described their dispute as "a scandal, dishonouring God".

Dr Jackson said that he had returned to a mountain of post. The vast majority supported his staying on, although he said: "There were a few saying 'You bastard.'"

Woodrow Wyatt, page 16



Jackson: position over resignation has altered

Tourists delayed by holiday hitch list

By HARVEY ELLIOTT, AIR CORRESPONDENT

NEARLY 400 holidaymakers were stranded at Gatwick for more than 24 hours after a series of problems which included a crashed fighter plane and striking Greek air traffic controllers.

The Caledonian Tristar on which 393 passengers were due to fly from Gatwick to Preveza and Kefalonia in Greece was stuck in Malta because of delays caused by Greek air traffic control, the airline said. When it was given clearance to leave for Gatwick on Sunday, its crew was not allowed to fly it because they

had gone over their legal flying hours.

The passengers at Gatwick were put up in hotels and promised an early departure yesterday. When the plane arrived, it developed a technical fault. The airline was then informed that a military aircraft had crashed on the runway at Preveza, putting it out of use for bigger aircraft such as the Tristar.

It could land only at Kefalonia, where some passengers were heading. The airline then chartered a ship and last night took the other 263 passengers to their destination.

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Marriage of 15 years is wound up in 2 minutes

By Alan Hamilton

CASE 5029 in the Principal Registry of the Family Division of the High Court yesterday could not have been in greater contrast to the wedding of the century in St Paul's Cathedral 15 years ago, when crowds lined the streets and a television audience of hundreds of millions looked on.

In a bare, functional courtroom decorated in pallid Civil Service eau-de-nil, the marriage of the Prince and Princess of Wales was provisionally ended in a swift and unadorned legal production-line process lasting barely two minutes. There were 31 other uncontested divorce petitions.

Senior District Judge Angel granted the couple a decree nisi, which cost the Prince £80. In six weeks time he will be able to apply for a decree absolute, ending the marriage for an additional fee of £20. In the unlikely event that either party has a change of mind before then, they can appeal.

The only witnesses to the historic moment were the judge, his clerk Mrs Carol Barry, a doorkeeper and 28 journalists. The brief proceedings are held in open court, but no member of the public took advantage of the opportunity. As for the parties themselves, the Prince was thousands of miles away helping the Sultan of Brunei to celebrate his fiftieth birthday. The Princess remained at Kensington Palace, where she is rumoured to be planning a holiday to France with her fellow divorcee, the Duchess of York, whose marriage was ended by the same judge in the same room six weeks ago.

Documents relating to the case, which are open for public inspection, show that the Prince signed his petition for divorce at St James's Palace last Thursday, the day before the official announcement by the couple's lawyers and Buckingham Palace. Simple questions and answers on the pre-printed affidavit form tell the sorry story in the bleakest detail.

Question 4: State the date on which you and the respondent separated. "November 1993 was the date on which we officially separated."

Question 5: State briefly the reason or main reason for the separation. "Both myself and the Respondent recognised there were irreconcilable differences and that accordingly we could no longer live together."

Question 8: Since the date given in the answer to question 4, have you ever lived with the respondent in the same household? "No." The answers, in fact, are not quite correct. John Major announced the Waleses' separation to the Commons on December 9, 1992, and their official parting is assumed to

have commenced from that date. After drawing up detailed settlement proposals, the Prince's solicitors, Farrer & Co, made a clerical error at the last moment when faced with preparing a petition within hours of the Princess's acceptance of a financial offer believed to be worth £17 million. The error had no effect on the proceedings: even with the wrong starting date, the couple had been apart for the requisite two years.

After Judge Angel had read the affidavits from the Prince and the Princess to satisfy himself that they had complied with the rules of uncontested divorce, all that remained in public was for him to ask if any party or person wished to show cause against the decrees being pronounced.

But first Mrs Barry stood up and in half a minute read the list of 32 names of petitioners in alphabetical order, with "His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales versus Her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales" second to last. Judge Angel, in black robes, white

wing collar and wig, asked his question.

The courtroom remained silent. "I pronounce decrees and make orders in accordance with the respective district judges' certificates," he said. Another 32 of the 9,000 divorces processed by the Somerset House court each year had gone through on the nod.

The judgment is enshrined in the certificate of decree nisi, which states: "On the 15th day of July 1996, The District Judge held that the petitioner and respondent have lived apart for a continuous period of at least two years immediately preceding the presentation of the petition, and that the respondent consents to a decree being granted."

Robin West, the court manager, said as he ushered out the journalists that very few people turned up to see their own marriages ended. "To all intents and purposes, the hearings are a bit of a non-event." Even case 5029, which reduces princely fame to the common herd and a dull sheet of paper.



The Sultan and Prince of Wales at a Brunei Armed Forces march-past yesterday

Prince joins Sultan for birthday blowout

THE Sultan of Brunei celebrated his fiftieth birthday yesterday in a style befitting his status as one of the world's richest men — in the company of the Prince of Wales and the singer Michael Jackson.

Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Prime Minister, Finance and Home Affairs Minister and absolute ruler of the oil-rich speck on the island of Borneo, is spending about £17 million on his birthday bash, government sources said.

About £10 million has been set aside for three apparently free concerts by Jackson at Jerudong amusement park, the largest in southeast Asia, which never charges admission for Brunei residents or foreign visitors.

Another £6 million has been spent on food and non-alcoholic drinks for the sultanate's 300,000 residents, and the capital is bedecked with bunting and flags. In his birthday speech at his 1,700-room, gold-domed palace, the Sultan again reminded his people of the need to diversify the country's oil-based economy.

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE

PRINCIPAL REGISTRY OF THE FAMILY DIVISION

Uncontested decree pronounced in Principal Registry of the Family Division, Somerset House, Strand, London

Before Mr District Judge Angel, sitting at the Principal Registry of the Family Division, Somerset House, Strand, London
Between His Royal Highness Prince Charles Philip
Answer George The Prince of Wales
and Her Royal Highness The Princess of Wales
On the 15th day of July 1996
The District Judge held that the petitioner and respondent have lived apart for a continuous period of at least two years immediately preceding the presentation of the petition, and that the respondent consents to a decree being granted.

The decree nisi certificate for the Prince and Princess and their signatures on the divorce papers

Manuel *Prava*

Man was 'justified' in stabbing burglar

By a Staff Reporter

A MAN who came home to find a burglar ransacking his flat was fully justified in seizing a kitchen knife and stabbing him, a judge at the Old Bailey said yesterday. The burglar, Brian Firmager, 32, later died from a heart attack on the operating table at Guy's Hospital, where his accomplice, Tony Garrard, had taken him after they fled. Firmager had attacked John Campbell with a pepper spray and baseball bat when he returned to his home and disturbed the burglars. "I have not the slightest doubt, that, in my judgment, Mr Campbell was fully justified in what he did in lawful self defence," Brian Higgs, QC, the Recorder, said. He jailed Garrard for six years for the aggravated burglary at Mr Campbell's flat in Holborn, central London, last January.

"Thugs like you who attack householders in this country and subject them to the violence that you two did cannot be surprised if the householders fight back in self-defence," the judge told Garrard. When Garrard, 34, from Lee, southeast London, heard of the death of Firmager, from Bromley, southeast London, he went straight to police in tears and confessed, the court was told. "He still experiences the agony of it," Geoffrey Cox, for the defence, said. "This man has had it brought home to him the sheer absurdity, folly and error of his ways."

The burglars had picked Mr Campbell as they believed he had money from alleged drug dealing. They struck when Mr Campbell and a man who shared the house were out, attacking them when they returned. Firmager hit Mr Campbell about the head with a baseball bat, continuing the assault even after he had been stabbed.

The Crown Prosecution Service had considered prosecuting Mr Campbell but decided there would be no proceedings as it was thought to be self-defence. Mr Campbell, who needed three stitches after the attack, is awaiting trial on two drug-related matters.

Former boss sent letter bomb after takeover

By Stephen Farrell

A FORMER managing director was jailed for four years yesterday for sending a letter bomb to the company that ousted him in a takeover. Alvin Burgess had become obsessed that staff at Qualtec Engineering, Hereford, were opening his letters, Worcester, Crown Court was told.

Burgess, 36, built a potentially lethal explosive using about 140 grams of firework gunpowder and a nine-volt battery. The bomb was defused after employees noticed tubes protruding from the padded envelope. Burgess, of Droitwich, Hereford and Worcester, admitted sending an explosive device with intent to burn on May 18 last year.

Judge David McEvoy, QC, was told that Burgess, who had set up the company, was made redundant in 1994 when Ralph Engineering took it over. He disputed the valuation of his firm and, while his divorce was being negotiated, his wife discovered that he had had a £30,000 payoff. He became unhinged, over business and personal problems, Henry Graham, for the prosecution, said.

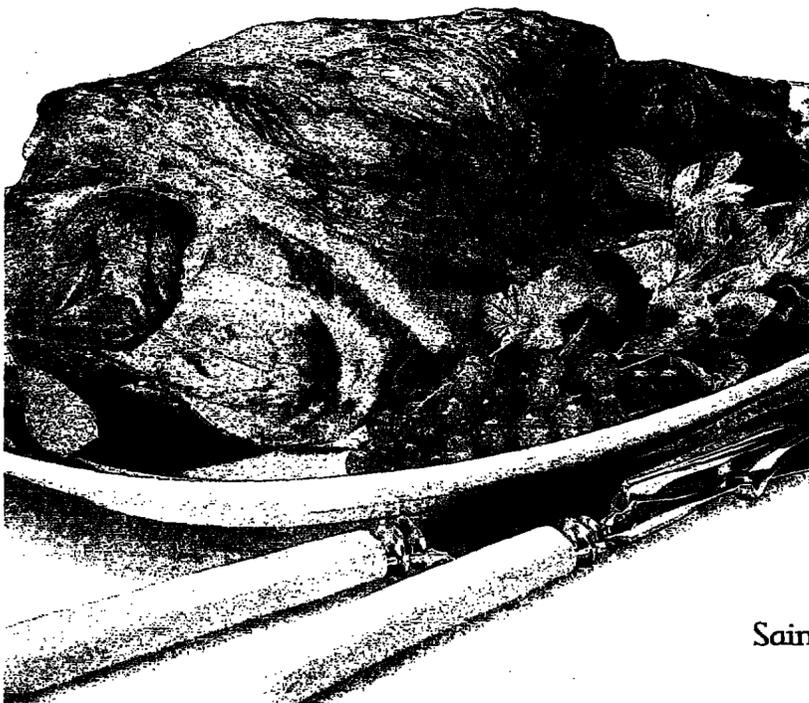
Philip LeCornu, for the defence, said Burgess had not intended to hurt anyone but was such a perfectionist that he had to make a real bomb instead of a hoax device.

CORRECTIONS

□ Mrs Jennifer Powell, who is claiming unfair dismissal by the management company Chesterfield House (report, June 28), was a manager of that company, and not of Fenwick, the department store.

□ The Crown Prosecution Service offered evidence against Robert Mazure (report, July 9) on a charge of murder, but that charge was dismissed at committal. A later attempt to have the charge added to an indictment for perverting the course of justice and assault was rejected by a High Court judge.

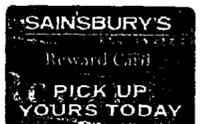
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Act aimed to protect public morals

Judge invokes 1926 law to curb reports on Moynihan case

BY KATHRYN KNIGHT AND FRANCES GIBB

THE colourful life and nefarious times of the late Baron Moynihan will remain shielded from the public eye after a High Court judge invoked a 1926 Act. The Judicial Proceedings Act, originally framed to protect the populace from moral outrage, is also used to restrict press coverage in contested divorce proceedings. Yesterday's case was initially brought to settle competing claims to the ancestral title of the third baron, who died from a stroke in 1991. At the time he was running a string of brothels in the Philippines, where he had fled 21 years earlier to escape a string of fraud charges. Two boys, aged seven and five, whose Filipina mothers claim they were Lord Moynihan's fourth and fifth wives, are laying claim to the title.

restrict coverage of any court proceedings if it could be seen as injuring public morals. That function is rarely invoked. But Sir Stephen Brown, president of the Family Division of the High Court, ruled that the spirit of the Act was relevant to the case. He therefore restricted coverage and ordered that reporting should be limited to names of parties and witnesses, charges and any counter charges, until he gives his ruling at the end of the hearing.

The case promised an in-

can get on with his political life. He wants to stand as an MP again — he lost his Lewisham seat in the 1992 general election — but if both the boys are ruled out of the title, he will not be able to offer himself as a candidate because he will become the Fourth Baron Moynihan and be elevated to the Lords.

Lord Meston, QC, representing the Queen's Proctor, told the judge that the decrees nisi and absolute granted to Lord Moynihan by Tunbridge Wells County Court in 1990 were void. It follows that his marriage to his fifth wife, Jinna, 31, would also be void because it was bigamous and their son Daniel would be illegitimate and therefore would not have a claim to the title.

Lord Moynihan's fortune in the Philippines — he left Britain with virtually nothing — will not be settled at this hearing, but is expected to go to one of the battling wives in Manila. Details of proceedings in the High Court will have to wait until Sir Stephen gives his judgment at the end of the hearing, which is expected to last 10 days.

The 1926 Act had a wider use when framed, which was to protect the populace from moral outrage as result of reading of "indecent matter" arising from any court reports. Under the Act, courts still have power to impose restrictions on what may be reported of "indecent matter". No report of proceedings may include indecent matter, or indecent medical, surgical, or physiological details, the publication of which would be calculated to injure public morals.

It is rarely used. Butterworth's textbook, *The Law of Journalism*, notes that "since public morality is in a constant state of flux it is hard to define those matters which would today be held to offend against this rule".

Leading article, page 17



Colin Moynihan: wants to see the case settled

sight into the antics of Anthony Patrick Andrew Cairnes Berkeley Moynihan, Third Baron of Leeds. It was known that he lived life to the full, building up a £3 million fortune from the sex industry and earning himself the nickname the Ermine Pimpernel. However, the Queen's Proctor then stepped into the case to challenge the legality of Lord Moynihan's divorce decree from Editha, 35, claiming that her signatures on the court papers were forgeries.

Mr Moynihan said outside the court that he does not care which way the decision goes as long as it is settled and he



Children at St Luke's School in Wolverhampton praying for their friends and teachers. The photograph was taken at the school's invitation

Children return to school a week after machete attack

BY A STAFF REPORTER



Mrs Bennett welcoming the children at assembly

SMILING children returned to St Luke's School in Wolverhampton yesterday a week after a man attacked the nursery class with a machete.

Denise Bennett, the head teacher, greeted the children as they arrived with their parents. Police guards were posted at the front and rear entrances and the teachers arrived wearing personal alarms.

Only the nursery children were absent after the attack seven days ago which left three of them and four adults seriously injured. The nursery unit, where the attacker struck after a teddy bear's picnic, remained closed.

But as the children began

to arrive shortly after 8.30am, an air of normality began to return to the school in Blakenhall. Youngsters said goodbye to their parents and joined their friends in each of the school's five classes, receiving a warm welcome from teachers. Then they filed into the school hall, brightly decorated with montages, including one of a rainbow saying: "Happy Days at St Luke's".

The children sat on the floor in a half-circle as Mrs Bennett told them: "We have had a really difficult time over the last week. What happened in our school was a terrible thing, but we have been thinking about you every day. By working to-

gether and playing together we can start to rebuild and feel happy again."

The children said a prayer for those injured in the attack and sang the hymn *Praise Him*. Mrs Bennett read them a story, *The Wind and the Waves*, about Jesus in a storm and compared it to the trauma experienced by everyone in the school.

The assembly finished with the children saying another prayer and singing a song, *I'm Special*.

After the assembly Mrs Bennett said that she was extremely heartened by the support of parents and children. She said that by working together they could overcome what had happened.

Doctors urge tougher limits on drink-driving

BY JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

THE legal blood-alcohol limit for driving should be cut from 80 milligrams to 50 and random breath-testing introduced to enforce it, the British Medical Association said in a report published yesterday.

As the report was being published, a group of concerned organisations called for new legal limits on drink-driving to cut the 500 deaths caused every year by motorists who drink too much.

The BMA report, which is backed by the cross-party Parliamentary Advisory Council for Transport Safety and the pressure group Alcohol Concern, says that seven of the 15 countries in the European Union have limits of 50mg or less, including France, which reduced its limit from 80mg last September.

Dr Fleur Fisher, the BMA's head of science, said: "The evidence in our report shows you don't have to be drunk to be a drink-driver who kills or maims. As soon as blood

alcohol rises above zero, your ability to react behind the wheel goes steadily downhill."

The report, timed to coincide with the start of the Government's summer drink-drive campaign today, says that a reduction in the blood-alcohol limit in Australia from 80 to 50mg, combined with random breath-testing, dramatically reduced drink-driving.

It cut by 90 per cent the number of motorists with blood alcohol levels between 50 and 80mg and it reduced by 41 per cent the heavy drinkers caught driving with over 150mg of alcohol in their blood.

Dr Fisher said: "It didn't just impact on the moderate drinkers, it affected the heavy drinkers too."

Robert Gifford, director of the Parliamentary Advisory Council, said that although the association had been pressing for six years for lower limits without success there was now a more receptive

mood in Parliament. The Labour Party has said that it is willing to consult on the issue and there is wide public support for lower limits. The door is ajar, if not absolutely open.

Mr Gifford said that, after the BMA appealed to Sir George Young last Christmas to introduce lower limits, the Transport Secretary said he would be interested to see research evidence supporting such a move. "Now we have that evidence pulled together in one report," Mr Gifford said.

The number of drink-related road deaths, after falling from around 1,500 in 1982 to 530 in 1992, now appears static with 510 in 1993 and 515 in 1994.

More drink driving-deaths now occur in the summer months than at Christmas, prompting the Government to repeat its Christmas advertising campaign this week showing badly injured car accident survivors.

Anti-guns campaign launched

BY RICHARD FORD HOME CORRESPONDENT

RELATIVES of victims of the Dunblane and Hungerford massacres will launch a campaign today to ban private ownership of handguns.

Gill Marshall-Andrews, a local government official who has set up the Gun Control Network, said: "After Hungerford, there was no public inquiry but there was a general expectation that a lot would be done and really very little was done. It is dangerous to assume that because the public expects something to happen, it will necessarily happen."

"We know the gun lobby is gearing itself up to launch a campaign against increased controls. They are building up resources for that purpose. We are countering that."

One member of the group is Mick North, 48, a university lecturer, whose wife died of cancer in 1993 and whose daughter Sophie, 5, their only child, died at Dunblane. He said in a statement: "Hungerford was described as unprecedented. Clearly it was not. Changes made in its aftermath were minimal and failed to protect my daughter and her friends. The danger to the public from legally held weapons is still there."

The shooting world is mounting a strong lobbying campaign and has asked gun users for £25 each towards the fight to prevent handguns being banned.

Recompense for lottery winner

A MAN who hires out gaming machines has got his own back against his biggest rival by winning £8 million on the National Lottery. Robert Deakin, 50, who lets one-arm bandits to pubs and clubs, and his wife won a share of the £22 million rollover jackpot last weekend.

"The lottery has been hitting our customers very badly because people don't play the machines as much. So it's certainly nice to get some money from the lottery for a change. Revenge is very sweet," he said.

Mr Deakin, of Portcawl, Mid Glamorgan, was on holiday in Bruges, Belgium, with his wife, Marcia, 48, a care assistant when they checked their lottery coupon on the hotel's teletext service. Mrs Deakin had not selected her usual six numbers because she forgot her glasses when marking the coupon.

"When I realised that my randomly chosen numbers were all on the ticket in my



The Deakins with Nichola, left, Jonathan and Laura

handbag we decided to abandon the holiday and come home immediately via the Shuttle," Mrs Deakin said. "It hasn't really sunk in yet. Now we're planning to take the whole family on another holiday, probably to America."

The Deakins, with daughters Nichola, 25, a pharmacist,

Laura, 18, a student, and Jonathan, 27, a technician, received their cheque for £1,825,101 at a champagne reception in Cardiff yesterday.

Eight of the 12 who shared the jackpot prize have so far come forward to claim their winnings, with seven wishing to be anonymous.

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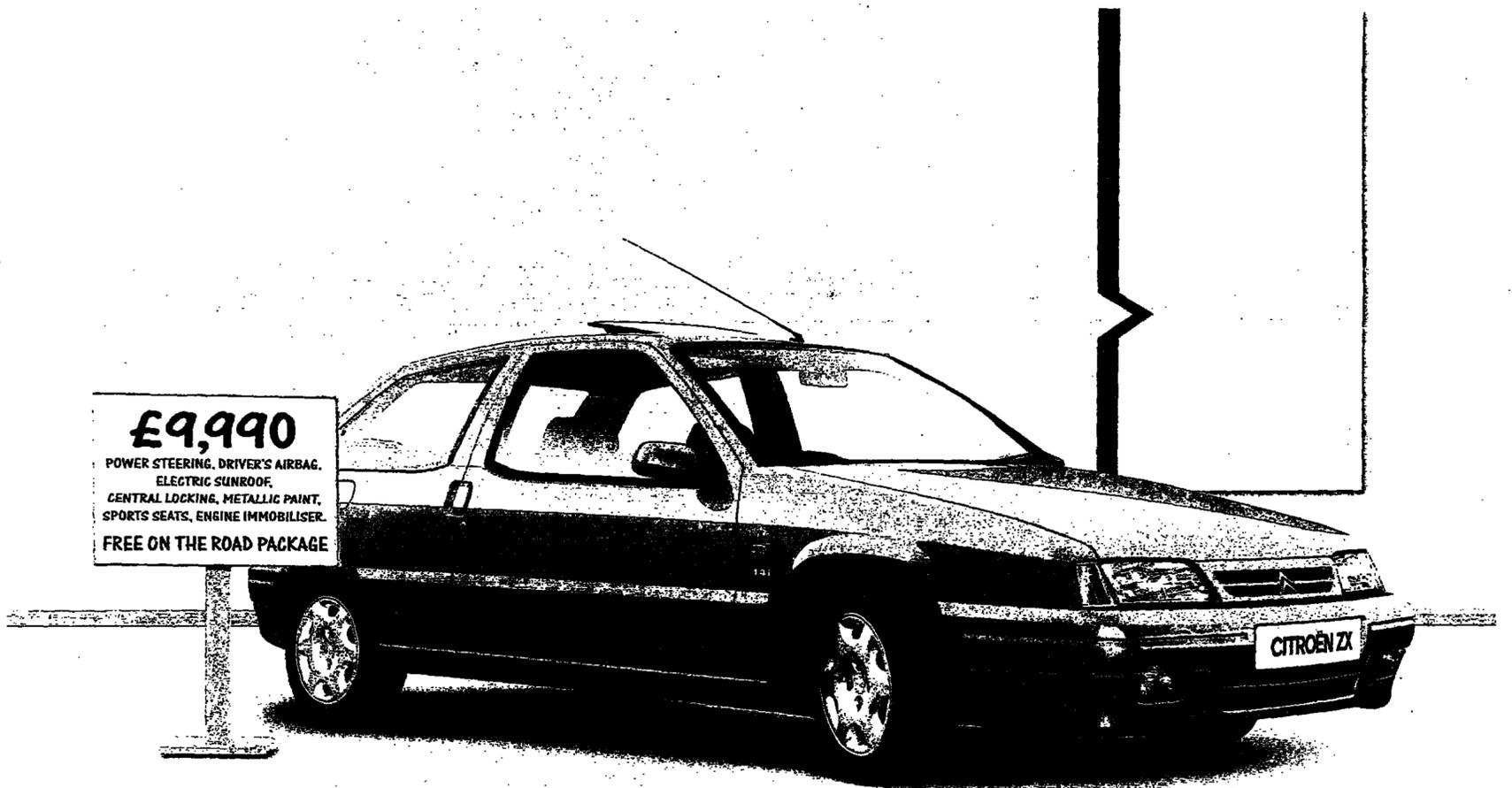
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July 16 1996

THE TIMES TUESDAY JULY 16 1996



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Shaun Russell yesterday. Police praised his courage in agreeing to face the media

Bereaved father tells of shattered family life

By RICHARD DUCE

THE husband of Lin Russell, who was murdered with her daughter last week in a field, said yesterday that having to help the girl's injured older sister to recover kept him going.

Shaking, and clutching a handkerchief, Shaun Russell, 44, said that Josephine, aged nine, was recovering slowly from serious head wounds inflicted by the hammer-wielding attacker. She is good at drawing and might be able to sketch the person who killed her mother and six-year-old sister, Megan.

"Every time I go to see her she is a little better," Dr Russell said of Josephine. "The doctors tell me she will have some impairment to her speech and mobility but should retain her intellectual capabilities. Yesterday she came out of intensive care and is now in a high-dependency unit and she's off the ventilator."

"She's got one eye open and is able to focus on me. She knows who I am but she can't talk. She doesn't yet know that her mother and sister are dead. I can't bring myself to tell her."

Dr Russell, a botanist who lectures at the Durrell Institute of Conservation and Ecology in Kent, clutched the hand of a police officer as he said that his wife, a geologist, and daughter would be buried in the countryside of North Wales that they loved.

He described how the family had moved to Nonington, a

village in Kent, from Snowdonia a year ago when he had been unable to find a new job. "We chose a beautiful part of the country to move to. I suppose to some people it was the idyllic life, with a beautiful listed cottage in the country. Lin had dedicated herself to building up the garden. We had ponies, the cats, dogs, the walking and cycling to school."

"The girls were very much country children. They grew up in South Africa and were both tomboys. They never needed television or many toys."

"They used to build dens and ride their ponies and make things. We never felt threatened or unsafe. We lived for 15 years in South Africa and two years in Namibia. Nothing horrid has ever happened to us before."

"Josie was four" when she left [Africa]. She remembers crocodiles and canoeing on the Zambezi but we never felt unsafe. I stayed in my house for the first time last night [since the murders]. I saw the roads and the lanes in a different light from the way I did previously."

Speaking of the killer, believed by police to be a local man who had planned the attack, Dr Russell said: "The best thing that that person can do for everybody's sake and even for his own sake is to come forward."

"I fear for the safety of everybody who he is near — any animals he is near. He



Josephine: she is now out of intensive care

killed my dog as well as my wife and child."

Police want to trace the driver of a car seen dumping a string bag into a hedge not far from the murder scene. Police found that the bag contained swimming costumes belonging to the girls. The man they want to trace is between 35 and 40, and about 5ft 6in tall with light coloured hair. He was driving a saloon car believed to be a Ford Escort.

Dr Russell said that, a week before the murders, an intruder had come into the garden and stolen a plant pot. "We talked of anyone wanting to steal from us wouldn't know our routine." He said that, for

the few days before his wife was attacked, he had been collecting the children from school by car.

Mrs Russell was to have had more use of the car but, on the day of the murders, her husband had taken it to work because he needed to return a bicycle he had bought that had broken. "But Lin probably wouldn't have taken the car anyway because she and the children enjoyed walking so much," he added.

He said he did not know what he would do once Josephine was out of hospital. "I have a chance of a job next year working on the slopes of Mount Kilimanjaro. Josie would like that — she loved Africa — but we will have to see what her intellectual capabilities are."

"I swing between periods of complete desolation, but most of all I'm thinking about Josie. I want to get her over all this and back to some kind of life. I don't know what sort of life that will be but it will be the best I can give her."

Detective Chief Inspector David Stevens, who is leading the murder inquiry, said that Dr Russell had shown great courage in agreeing to be interviewed by the press. "It was very difficult for him but it was something he realised he should do to help the police."

Police have received many calls from the public and two have led to further confirmation that the Ford Escort-type car was seen in the area of the murders.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Stab victim to undergo Aids test

A security guard is to be tested for Aids after a burglar stabbed him with a hypodermic needle which he said contained infected blood.

The guard, 29, and a colleague were attacked by two burglars as they patrolled a factory owned by United Distillers in Laindon, Essex. Police said that one of the burglars plunged the needle into the guard's arm. Both men were left bound. The burglars stole a cash dispenser containing several thousand pounds.

Fantasy job hunt

More than 8,000 people have applied to audition for 300 jobs as "crew members" at Segaworld, the world's largest indoor theme park, which is to open at Piccadilly, London, this year. The park will provide virtual reality rides and games for up to 1.75 million visitors a year.

Reynolds payout

Albert Reynolds, the former Irish Prime Minister, accepted £10,000 damages and an apology from the publishers of a book describing him as a liar. Guinness Publishing admitted there was no truth in the allegation in *The Guinness Book of Political Blunders*, which was withdrawn.

False prophet

A woman appeared before magistrates in Llanelli accused of being a bogus medium. Geraldine Lee, 54, who lives at the Morfa gypsy camp in Llanelli, was charged under the Fraudulent Mediums Act of 1951. She was granted bail and the case was adjourned for two weeks.

£5m Ecstasy haul

Five men are due to appear in court today after the seizure of Ecstasy tablets with a street value of £5 million during a customs search of a car at the French end of the Channel Tunnel. The men, who will appear before Dover and Folkestone magistrates, come from east London and Essex.

Berlin medal sale

A gold medal won at the 1936 Olympics in Berlin is up for auction today. It was won by Major Lionel Emmett, 83, a member of the Indian hockey team which beat Germany 5-1. His Olympic memorabilia and service medals will be sold at Spink's, London.

Double quick

A 22-year-old woman is to give birth to two sets of twins in a year. Gillian Bogg, of Rendlesham, Suffolk, had her first twins, James and Georgina, in January. She is expecting a second set in December. Mrs Bogg also has a three-year-old daughter.

Witnesses differ over airshow crash

By HARVEY ELLIOTT
AIR CORRESPONDENT

CONFLICTING evidence emerged yesterday as to the cause of the crash of a vintage wartime fighter in which one of Britain's most experienced pilots was killed.

Air accident investigators watched video and still films of the final moments of the Lockheed P38 Lightning as it cartwheeled and burst into flames in front of an airshow crowd and listened to often contradictory evidence from witnesses.

Some said the nose of the aircraft dropped suddenly and uncontrollably and that the plane appeared to dip to its right before impact. Others said that there appeared to be nothing wrong with the plane and that its wing simply clipped the ground as it began to turn and pull up

towards a roll during the low-level flypast.

In the meantime, however, there was general acclaim for the experience and skill of Michael "Hoot" Proudfoot, the 54-year-old Britannia force captain and former RAF squadron leader who died in the crash at Duxford, Cambridgeshire.

Captain Proudfoot, from High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, had been with Britannia for 17 years since leaving the RAF, flying Boeing 757s and 767s to holiday resorts around the world. He flew vintage aircraft in his spare time and was one of the most respected and skilful display pilots in the country.

Roger Burnell, Britannia's managing director, said Mr Proudfoot's death during a display of vintage aircraft at the Imperial War Museum had been a shocking blow to the company. "He was

an extremely competent pilot and he was held in high regard both personally and professionally. Everybody here is shocked and distressed by his death. Our thoughts are with his family."

Mr Proudfoot was an RAF officer from 1962 to 1979 and was decorated twice, winning the Queen's Commendation in 1971 and the Air Force Cross in 1974. He leaves a wife and two sons, one of whom, Lee, is also a pilot who used to work for Britannia.

The American Lightning Mr Proudfoot was flying when he died was the only one of its type still in existence outside America. About 13,000 people were at the annual Flying Legends show when the crash happened. A spectator's video shows the plane suddenly dipping as it flies low across the runway, then cartwheeling along the ground.

Pilot who landed plane on wife will quit flying

By EMMA WILKINS AND HARVEY ELLIOTT

A PILOT whose wife was struck by debris as he crash-landed his plane promised yesterday to give up flying. Paul Ellis, 50, was comforting his wife, Nicola, as she made a good recovery from head, arm and chest injuries in hospital.

Mrs Ellis, 40, a ceramic artist, was hit by debris from the undercarriage as her husband's Mini-Max microlight came down in a field near their home at Blewbury, near Didcot, Oxfordshire on Sunday.

Mr Ellis, a computer software writer, is now waiting to be interviewed by investigators from the British Microlight Aircraft Association. One of the couple's two labradors was killed by debris from the crash, which has prompted Mr Ellis to turn his back on a lifetime's hobby.

"I think this is a signal that everyone is mortal and it is time to hang up my flying helmet. I have always loved aviation, but I am a realist," he

said. "I think life and family are a damn sight more important than one's personal pleasure. It was quite a selfish thing to have an aeroplane with only one seat anyway."

Mr Ellis, who built the microlight himself over two years, spent the day by his wife's bedside at the John Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford, where she was in a stable condition. She is expected to be released today.

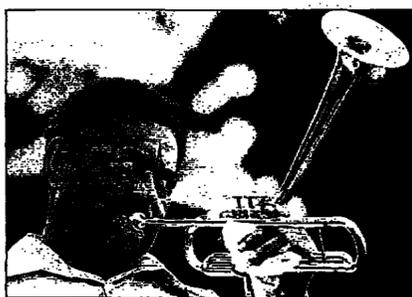
"I took off from the airstrip and I was going to fly from there to where I keep the plane about 500 metres away," said Mr Ellis. "I climbed to get altitude for the approach. I lost power and I was climbing into the sun and so I was blinded. I tried to turn back to land but the aircraft stalled."

"When it hit the ground some part of the wreckage hit my wife. I think it was part of the undercarriage," he said. "I could hear my wife shouting so I knew she was all right. She was lying on the ground

and shouting. She actually seemed more cross than anything." Mrs Ellis was flown to hospital after being treated by paramedics at the scene of the accident, a 200-acre field owned by a local farmer at Ginge, five miles from the couple's home.

The Mini-Max is one of the cheapest fixed wing microlights and costs about £5,000 in kit form or £8,000 ready assembled. In 1984 a series of microlight crashes led to a safety clampdown and responsibility for inspecting the aircraft was given to the Popular Flying Association and the British Microlight Aircraft Association.

"Compared with France, which is completely unregulated, we have an extremely good safety record in Britain," said Francis Donaldson, chief engineer of the PFA. "Normally, even if there is an engine failure, the very low stalling speed of a microlight means they can get down safely."



Dizzy Gillespie: customised trumpet may fetch £35,000

Beatles lyric going, but not for a song

By PETER FOSTER

THE creased, coffee-stained scrap of paper on which John Lennon and Paul McCartney wrote the lyrics for the Beatles hit *With a Little Help from My Friends* is to go on sale for an estimated £80,000.

The manuscript, which bears the provisional title for the song, *Bad Finger Boogie*, is the most expensive of several Lennon and McCartney items on sale at a rock'n'roll memorabilia auction at Sotheby's in September.

Rock buffs will also be able to bid for McCartney's recording notes to the Beatles' seven-minute ballad *Hey Jude*. Titled simply *Jude*, the single sheet is expected to fetch more than £25,000. The notes were the germ of a record which reached No 1 in both Britain and the United States, selling more than eight million copies in the process.

More obscure is an old box of Bassett's Liquorice Allsorts signed by all four Beatles and expected to make between £2,000 and £2,500. The box is thought to have been a design

prototype for the colourful confectionery planned by Bassett's after George Harrison mentioned his taste for chewy sweets. The band was pelted with jelly babies after the chance remark.

Lennon's words for the 1967 song *Being for the Benefit of Mr Kite* are expected to fetch more than £30,000. Other Beatles lyrics to go on sale are *Lovely Rita*, *Magical Mystery Tour* and *Lady Madonna*, with each expected to fetch between £5,000 and £10,000.

Jazz fans are expected to pay up to £35,000 for a trumpet specially made for Dizzy Gillespie. The jazz legend used a custom-made instrument with the bell turned up 45 degrees. One of Pete Townshend's Gibson guitars which helped The Who to achieve the accolade of the loudest band in the world, during the 1970s is expected to fetch up to £12,000. Memorabilia from 1990s rivals Blur and Oasis will also be on offer.

Festival review, page 37

"bring forth thou this fiend of Scotland..."

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155

The Orange court case:

LAW

but elsewhere

disorder

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And we still think too few users know, or can know, what they're actually paying.

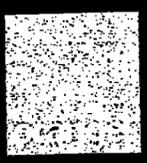
Customers buy Vodafone and Cellnet services from service providers. The result - there isn't one set of tariffs, but many. Working out what each is going to cost you is a nightmare.

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Please let us know what you think. We might have had a favourable judgement, but you're the real jury.



Major will try 'again and again' for peace in Ulster

By PHILIP WEBSTER AND ARTHUR LEATHLEY

JOHN MAJOR promised last night to "try again and again" to remove the obstacles to peace in Northern Ireland as he sought to end the feud in Anglo-Irish relations.

The Prime Minister criticised John Bruton's attack on the British Government's handling of the Orange dispute as "unhelpful". But he said that the row with Mr Bruton was behind them and acceded to Dublin's request for an early formal meeting between the two governments to clear the air.

Mr Major said that the only people "rubbing their hands with glee" over recent events were the IRA. They had scored a propaganda victory.

Twenty-four hours earlier, a meeting this week had been all but ruled out. But last night it was disclosed that Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Northern Ireland Secretary, and Dick Spring, the Irish Foreign Minister, will meet on Friday to discuss "mutual security interests".

It promises to be a tense

The security forces have fired 6,002 plastic bullets during rioting across Northern Ireland in the past week, the RUC said yesterday. There have been 1,277 attacks on the police, 192 civilian injuries and 149 police injuries. The number of petrol bombs is not recorded but many thousands are thought to have been thrown, more than 2,000 in one single night in Londonderry.

British officials said last night that the gathering would be attended by Sir Hugh Annesley, Chief Constable of the RUC, who was reported to want to tell Mr Spring, and Nora Owen, the Irish Minister for Justice, that allowing Orangemen to march through Portadown was his own decision that and he had not bowed to political pressure. Mr Spring and Sir Patrick will also meet, less formally, today in Belfast on the margins of the multiparty peace talks.

In spite of Mr Major's fury over Mr Bruton's attack, and the continuing resentment of ministers, London officials

spoke yesterday of his desire to "draw a line in the sand" and to try to restore relations to a sounder footing.

Mr Major told the BBC's *Panorama* last night: "This will not be the only setback. Something will happen again that will upset one community or the other. That I can firmly be certain of. When it does then we will try again and if there is a setback we will try yet again, and again, and again. We owe that to the people of Northern Ireland."

In the Commons there was evidence that the difficulties of recent days has hardened attitudes on the Tory benches. Several MPs called for an end to the Anglo-Irish agreement and accused the Government of giving too much ground to the nationalists.

The plan for an early meeting was announced to the Commons by Sir Patrick, who said that the upsurge of violence was the worst setback for many years and a "black period" for Northern Ireland. He confirmed that the arrangements for handling marches would be reviewed. There were "no immediate obvious answers" to the poten-

tially destabilising effects of controversial marches, but the inquiry would allow interested parties to suggest how they could be better managed.

The former Chancellor Norman Lamont led backbench protests by telling Sir Patrick that there was no middle way between Unionism and nationalism. He was cheered by backbenchers when he said: "To pursue a middle way that does not exist runs a danger of arousing nationalist expectations that cannot be fulfilled and also of provoking a reaction from the majority. Is it not time therefore to consider a fresh approach in which Ulster would be governed more like the rest of the UK?"

Sir Patrick said: "It is not a middle way the Government is seeking to help the people of Northern Ireland achieve between Unionism and nationalism. By definition the two lead in opposing directions."

He tried to pacify backbench critics by insisting that the Government was not giving up any control of Northern Ireland and emphasising that Britain could amend the Anglo-Irish agreement during the talks process.



The cortege approaching Londonderry cemetery. John Hume and Martin McGuinness were among the mourners

Thousands mourn riot victim

By AUDREY MAGEE IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

THOUSANDS of mourners attended the funeral yesterday of Dermot McShane, the convicted INLA terrorist crushed by an army vehicle during a riot at the weekend. John Hume, the SDLP

leader, and Martin McGuinness of Sinn Fein, were among the mourners at St Columba's Church on the edge of the Bogside district of Londonderry. Father Con McLoughlin, who read the homily, said: "It has been a dark week in this city... scarcely in the 21 years that I

have been here have I found people so depressed and saddened almost to the point of despair."

Mr Hume said he shared the anger felt by the Derry community. "As always happens with violence in addition to simply intensifying divisions in the community it also leaves terrible victims and the victims of this violence have been Dermot McShane and his family."

Mr McShane, 35, was killed early on Saturday morning when an army personnel carrier crushed him during rioting in the city centre. He had served four years of an 11-year sentence in the Maze prison for conspiracy and possession of firearms and explosives.

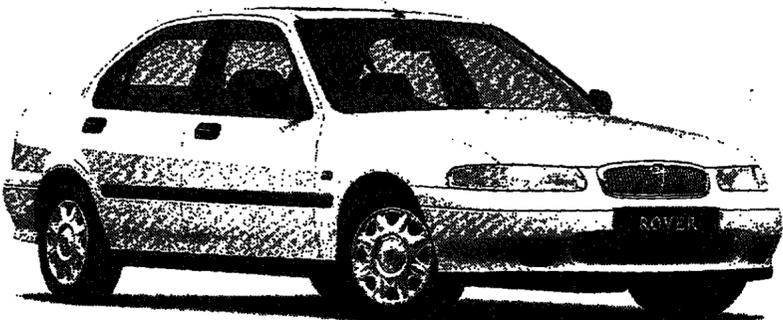
The Irish Republican Socialist Party (IRSP), the political wing of the INLA, said that Mr McShane had not been involved in any paramilitary activity since his release from prison in 1991. Police sources, however, said that they were "very sceptical". Mr McShane's American-

born wife, Treasa, led the mourners with the couple's children, Chris and Eric. The family asked that there be no military trappings at the funeral. A tricolour was draped over the coffin.

Following the cortege with Mr McGuinness were Mitchell McLaughlin of Sinn Fein and Kevin McQuillan of the IRSP. Mr McLaughlin said that the anger felt by the community after police relented and allowed Orangemen to march down the Garvagh Road last week was in danger of flaring up again at any stage. He said that about 200 Sinn Fein members had been working on the streets over the weekend, trying to calm the rioters.

The next potential flashpoint in Londonderry is on August 10 when thousands of apprentice boys are due to march through the city to commemorate the lifting of the siege imposed by James II in 1689. Nationalists are adamant that they will not pass through.

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Lamont has at least defined the real choice

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

Tory divisions over Northern Ireland resurfaced yesterday in a potentially significant new form. At present, dissent is limited to a minority, mainly of Euro-sceptics, and there are no signs of any change in a policy to which John Major is so personally committed. But if there is no improvement on the ground, Tory demands for a shift will grow.

For 25 years the Tory and Labour leaderships have attempted to reconcile the traditions and ambitions of unionists and nationalists. This search has taken many shapes and the two main parties have tilted in orange and green directions. But, with occasional, and sometimes lengthy, hiatuses, the aims have been pursued consistently since the days of Willie Whitelaw and the Sunningdale agreement.

Bipartisanship has survived the strains of the past week. The predominant tone of yesterday's exchanges in the Commons was that, while there is much to regret about what happened, time should not be wasted on recriminations. Labour and the Liberal Democrat questioning of failures in handling the Portadown march were muted given how much went wrong. The emphasis was, rather, on the need for both the London and Dublin Governments to patch things up.

Sir Patrick Mayhew sounded, as always, the voice of prudence, moderation and world-weary reason. He could easily have been a Secretary of State for India or the Colonies taking of disturbances in a distant part of the Empire a century ago. Showing a sure touch, Mo Mowlam, his Labour Shadow, was judiciously restrained in her criticisms.

Amid all the predictable, worthy and necessary good intentions expressed for an hour, the most striking intervention came 40 minutes into the exchanges from Norman Lamont. He attracted vocal support from his own side when he challenged the whole basis of the policy of the past 25 years. He argued that "to not exist runs a danger of arousing nationalist expectations that cannot be fulfilled and also of provoking a reac-

tion from the majority. Is it not time therefore to consider a fresh approach in which Ulster would be governed more like the rest of the United Kingdom?"

His view, though immediately opposed by Sir Patrick, was broadly backed in later interventions by David Wilshire, Tony Marlow and Barry Porter. Some are long-standing allies of the Unionists and voted against the Anglo-Irish agreement of 1985, which they regard as the root of all the current problems.

This is essentially the integrationist policy advocated for so long by Enoch Powell and involves a rejection of any formal role for the Dublin Government (and informally of Washington) in the affairs of Northern Ireland. The difference from the old Stormont self-government before 1972 would presumably be entrenched legal protection of the rights of the minority, nationalist community. The adoption of this approach would, of course, be denounced by the nationalists. Dublin and, no doubt, Washington. So what, say the Tory Unionists: "It is better to face reality now and admit the futility of continuing the current inherently flawed approach."

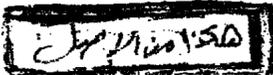
Leaving aside the merits of trying to reconcile the two communities via cross-border institutions, any likely British government would regard as unacceptable the probable cost in increased terrorism and damaged relations with Dublin and Washington. But Mr Lamont has at least defined what the real choice is. An integrationist approach is already backed by the powerful "Friends of the Union" section of the British press and may gain in influence among the Tory Right if Mr Major's initiative cannot be revived. Mr Lamont's policy will not prevail as long as Mr Major sticks to his "try, try and try again" line. But the current bipartisan approach could be one of the first Government policies to be challenged if the Tories lose the election.

PETER RIDDELL

IN PARLIAMENT

TODAY in the Commons: questions to health ministers and the Prime Minister; Labour-initiated debate on self-off of Armed Forces married quarters; debate on Damages Bill; continuation of Trusts of Land and Appointments of Trustees Bill, remaining stages; backbench debate on the Stormont of Derry; in the Lords: Council structure and Other Salaries Order; change orders; and Boundary (Production and Sale) Bill, second reading.

thought to have been a design



Pilgrims killed in temple stampedes at Hindu festival

FROM COOMI KAPOOR IN DELHI

ABOUT 60 pilgrims died yesterday and the same number were seriously injured in two separate stampedes in the temple towns of Ujjain and Hardwar on the Hindu festival of Sonvati Amavasya.

At the Mahakaleswar temple at Ujjain in central India, at least 37 people were trampled to death or suffocated at sunrise as devotees rushed for worship after taking a dip in the Kshipra river as part of their devotions.

In a similar incident at Hardwar, on the banks of the Ganges, more than 20 people were killed when bathers tried to push their way through the narrow Gau Ghat bridge near Har Ki Bauri.

At Ujjain several pilgrims fell on top of each other when they slipped on the marble stairs of the temple. Others were killed when they were impaled after the bamboo barricades snapped. The gate of the temple was closed and, when the passage to the deity was blocked to control the crowd, panic broke out among the worshippers.

Pandit Raman Drivedi, a priest at the temple, blamed the tragedy on the lack of policemen to control the crowd of some 700 people inside the temple. He said there were only four policemen at the site.

More than 200,000 people have congregated in Ujjain, 125 miles from Bhopal in



Madhya Pradesh, on the occasion of Sonvati Amavasya, a festival which occurs after a gap of 27 years, according to the Hindu calendar. It is held on a Monday morning after a moonless night.

The victims were mostly villagers from the neighbouring Malwa region, who had gathered in large numbers to thank the gods for the rains after the failure of the monsoon in the whole of western Madhya Pradesh. Villagers had been collecting in the town since Sunday, singing devotional songs.

At the Government's civil hospital, wailing villagers squatted outside waiting for news of their missing relatives. The bodies were placed in an open area and guarded by volunteers and citizens of Ujjain. However, one witness said that robbers were seen taking possessions from the dead and injured.

P.S. Tomar, the Ujjain Commissioner, said: "It is tragic. Most of them had come to thank God for the rains. Several of them were seen dancing and singing in praise of God as they queued in front of the temple gates."

The deaths in Hardwar, where 2,500,000 worshippers have assembled, were blamed on the lack of adequate arrangements by the district authorities who were unprepared for such a huge crowd.

As the dead and injured were taken to hospital, more pilgrims entered Hardwar to take a dip in this holiest of Indian rivers, unaware of the tragedy.

Balbir Singh, who lost his wife, wept as he blamed the district administration for delay in taking the wounded to the hospital. He said that there were no policemen at the bridge to regulate the crowd.

Inquiries into the stampedes have been ordered by the state government of both Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh and compensation is to be paid to the victims' families.

There have been several stampedes in India in the past decade which have killed around 1,000 people. In November 1994, in the western town of Nagpur, 130 people were killed and 500 injured as 50,000 protesters demanding jobs went on a rampage when police charged them.



Johnny Beveridge and Lord Edward Manners land at a remote airstrip to study wildlife overwhelmed by environmental problems

Air adventurers chart wildlife's plight

FROM SAM KILEY IN NAIROBI

BARELY recovered from a bout of malaria, Lord Edward Manners and his two companions left Nairobi yesterday on the last leg of their historic aerial tour of Africa.

The 16,000-mile journey, during which the team faced storms which threatened to blow them over the battlefields of Liberia and forced them to land their single-engine Cessna on remote bush strips, reached its dramatic highlight in Kenya, where they were brought face to face with conservation issues.

"The hairiest part of the trip was certainly the flight along the Liberian coast. We knew fighting was raging in Monrovia [the coastal capital] but a storm tried to blow us over the guns for four hours," Johnny Beveridge, Lord Edward's copilot, said.

Lord Edward, 30, the second son of the Duke of Rutland, Mr Beveridge, 31, a banker based in New York, and Dan Stevens, 30, a photographer, self-financed their expedition to raise the profile of the Pan African Conservation Trust (Pact), which will gather funds to invest in community-based wildlife projects.

Nowhere in Africa is there a greater need for such activities than in Kenya, where 70 per cent of all wildlife roams on land outside the national parks and reserves, bringing potentially dangerous and destructive animals into conflict

with the human population, growing at 4 per cent a year. The team flew to the Masai Mara National Reserve, the jewel in Kenya's tourist crown, which generates an estimated £20 million a year in park fees alone.

In the three days before the Pact crew arrived, two Masai herdsmen were trampled and killed by elephants which share their pastures. But the locals who live among elephants, lions, jackals and hyenas receive little compen-

sation from the councillors who manage the reserve. Little is done to protect the wildlife in turn from diseases transmitted by the Masai cattle, goats and dogs.

"If Africa's wildlife is to survive into the next century, the people who share the land with it must be the principal beneficiaries of it, not its victims," Lord Edward said.

Canine distemper, spread from Masai dogs into the big cat populations of the Mara and neighbouring Serengeti, has killed 30 to 40 per cent of the lion population over the past two years, according to Richard Kock, head of Kenya Wildlife Services veterinary department, who toured the Mara with the Pact pilots.

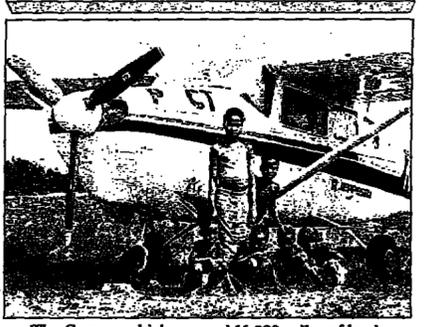
A project to vaccinate 300 Masai dogs against distemper and rabies, another big wildlife killer, is under way. But with the project's World Bank funds scheduled to dry up next year, money is desperately needed.

"Through Pact we might be able to help fund a vaccination programme, perhaps for cattle as well. That way the Masai will benefit from a conservation programme, and so will the wildlife," Lord Edward said.

Arriving at Nairobi airport after their Mara trip, the Pact team came across the improbable sight of an anaesthetised baby elephant being dragged out of the back of a Cessna Caravan passenger plane by rangers.

The calf, no more than a year old, had been orphaned when her mother was caught in crossfire during cattle raiding in north Kenya, or shot by an angry farmer as she swallowed his crops. The young female had been wounded in the right foot by a rifle bullet and will be cared for at Nairobi's wildlife orphanage.

"That is the future for wildlife unless we all do something to help humans and animals share the environment," Lord Edward said.



The Cessna, which covered 16,000 miles of bush

Patten returns to storm over fate of top officials

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY IN HONG KONG

CHRIS PATTEN, the Governor, flew into a maelstrom of rumour and innuendo surrounding two of Hong Kong's highest officials on his return from London yesterday.

At the centre of the storm are Laurence Leung, the Director of Immigration, who abruptly resigned last week, and Anson Chan, the Chief Secretary and Deputy Governor, who is said to have been told by China she will not be the first Peking-appointed Chief Executive in 1997. She has, however, arranged to cooperate closely with the incoming administration.

The speculation surrounding the departure of Mr Leung from a post which normally requires a year's notice has contributed to declining public confidence in the future of the colony. He appears to have been permitted to resign at 24 hours' notice — an extraordinary

move by someone in such a sensitive post with access to information of value to the incoming Chinese authorities. It has been suggested that he was offered a choice of being dismissed or resigning at once with a large pension, but a government spokesman refused to comment on the rumour.

Representatives of the main political parties in the Legislative Council, now in summer recess, are calling for a special sitting where they could question the Governor about Mr Leung. Senior Chinese officials have also demanded an explanation.

When Mr Patten landed, the first two questions at his airport press conference were about Mr Leung and Mrs Chan. The Governor dismissed them both as groundless, insisting that Mr Leung's resignation was for "personal

reasons". In the case of Mrs Chan, there have been two rumours this week, both based on press reports from London. The first is that the Chief Secretary told British officials during a recent visit to London that Peking's representatives have told her she will not be named Chief Executive because she is too closely allied to Britain.

The second is that Mrs Chan has arranged with John Major that, after the Chief Executive is named, probably at the end of this year, she will devote herself to helping him to adjust to his forthcoming duties while retaining her title. This will, in effect, remove her from being too closely linked to British interests and increase her effectiveness after the takeover. Mrs Chan is favoured with the Hong Kong public for the post of Chief Executive.

“We knew there was fighting but a storm tried to blow us over the guns”

Alarm as judges lose gun guard

BY FRANCESCO BONGARRA

ITALIAN judges, often the target of Mafia attacks, said yesterday that they were afraid that the new left-wing Government's plans to withdraw their police escorts could put their lives in danger.

The move to end police protection, announced by Giorgio Napolitano, the Interior Minister, was a symbol of the desire of Professor Romano Prodi's administration to rid Italy of the empty trappings of power. But the decision seems to have overlooked the extreme vulnerability of judges, five of whom have been murdered in the past ten years.

Armando Spataro, an anti-Mafia judge in Milan, said: "I want to see an official written order for the withdrawal of my escort, so that people will know who is responsible for my death in case I am shot."

Francesco Borrelli, Milan's Chief Prosecutor, who could be a key Mafia target, complained officially to the city's prefect, Bartolomeo Sorge. Signor Borrelli claimed that he had never been consulted on the matter.

Signor Napolitano, who wanted to cut the small army of 4,000 policemen who guard VIPs 24 hours a day, responded: "People most at risk will always get adequate police protection. A police guard has to be provided only for people whose lives are really in danger, otherwise it is just a waste of money."

Discord intensifies between America and Saudi Arabia

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

THE United States and Saudi Arabia, supposedly allies, were seriously at odds yesterday over the investigation into the terrorist bombing that killed 19 Americans, and over the Pentagon's wish to move its forces to safer locations within the kingdom.

The frictions have grown so serious that Louis Freeh, Director of the FBI, was secretly sent to Riyadh, the Saudi capital, for the second time in nine days to plead for greater co-operation. He threatened to take his complaints directly to the ailing King Fahd, who had earlier pledged full co-operation to President Clinton.

The outcome of Mr Freeh's extraordinary mission remained unclear yesterday as an embarrassed silence fell over the Clinton Administration on a sensitive issue that Republicans see as having the potential to become a combative election issue.

Prince Sultan bin Abdul Aziz, the Saudi Defence Minis-

ter, said his Government was not in favour of moving 5,000 US servicemen, most of them in the air force, to isolated bases far from urban areas. He complained that if they were relocated, the Saudis would have to provide them with new accommodation. In remarks that will be ill-received in Washington, he also said: "This is not correct because security has been achieved, the rule of law prevails and incidents that happen in our country now are only one out of a million compared to what happens in other countries."

Five Americans died last November when a car bomb blew up outside a training centre for the Saudi National Guard in Riyadh, followed by the massive blast three weeks ago when a bomb-laden petrol tanker exploded beside a barracks near Dhahran. The Pentagon said last week that some American forces must be moved as a precaution. The

FBI has sent 70 agents to Dhahran since the second bombing but their actions have been severely limited by Saudi authorities. The agents have not been allowed off the US base to interview Saudi civilians, nor have they been given permission to send pieces of the bomb to Washington for forensic tests.

Worse, they have been barred from the investigation. Mr Freeh sought US access to several suspects who were detained by Saudi police, though the FBI does not know how many were held, nor why. The getaway car used in the blast was found six miles away a few days afterwards, but the Americans learnt of it only at the weekend.

The lack of collaboration follows Saudi refusals to extend the perimeter in Dhahran beyond 35 yards and the unexpected beheading of four men convicted of the November bombing. The FBI wanted to interview them.

4,000 children hit by food poisoning

Tokyo: Health workers battled to contain a food poisoning outbreak from school lunches that made nearly 4,000 children ill, forced mass cancellation of classes and caused near-panic in Japan's second largest city of Osaka. The outbreak has sent more than 200 primary school pupils to hospital since Friday, suffering from vomiting, diarrhoea and fever. (Reuters)

Italian seized

Bogota: Suspected left-wing guerrillas have kidnapped an Italian engineer as he was driving through a rural area in the northwestern Colombian province of Antioquia, local radio reported. (Reuters)

Volcano erupts

Wellington: Scientists monitoring the volcanic Mount Ruapehu said it had roared back into life, but cloud prevented them seeing any lava. Airline pilots reported a 20,000ft ash column. (AP)

Burma demand

Bangkok: The Burmese military regime has demanded that ethnic Karen rebels cut contacts with Aung San Suu Kyi, the democracy campaigner, as a ceasefire condition, a guerrilla leader said. (AP)

Job creation

Warsaw: A volunteer Polish fireman has pleaded guilty to setting light to ten buildings to give himself more work. In a case last week, a glazier was accused of smashing shop windows at night. (Reuters)

Protest at Palestine Olympic flag

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM



THE Israeli Foreign Ministry has made an official protest to the International Olympic Committee over plans by Palestinian athletes, who are competing for the first time, to march in the opening ceremony under a banner of the Palestinian flag, inscribed simply: Palestine.

The Tel Aviv paper Yediot Ahronot disclosed that, contrary to the advice of Israeli sports organisations, the protest letter had been delivered

by the Israeli consul in Atlanta after a month of lower-level protests by the Foreign Ministry.

"In the letter," the paper reported, "Israel demands that the Palestinian delegation be content to be referred to via one of the terms which was deployed in the 1993 Israel-Palestinian accords."

Some Israeli athletes are upset by the formal protest because they fear it will ensure their exclusion from the coming Middle East games. Yoram Obrakovitz, head of Israel's Olympic Committee, said: "This was not a prudent decision. We have made a tremendous effort to be accepted in the Middle East games, and now it is liable to come to naught."

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US business chiefs face Europe ban in Cuba row

BY CHARLES BREMNER

EUROPEAN ministers yesterday prepared plans for retaliation against the United States if President Clinton fails tonight to suspend aspects of a new law on trade with Cuba that seeks to punish foreign companies doing business in the Communist island.

"We must react, and must react today," Jacques Santer, the President of the Brussels Commission, told European Union foreign ministers. The ministers prepared a list of options that include barring American businessmen from visiting the Union's 15 member states and enabling European companies to counter-sue in European courts.

After months in which the EU has mustered a weak response to the Helms-Burton Act, named after its Senate sponsors, consensus emerged yesterday among ministers over the need to send a tough message to Washington.

Few believed that President Clinton would exercise his right to suspend for six months the controversial Title Three of the Act, which expires at midnight tonight. The outcry from Republicans and the Cuban-American lobby in particular would prove damaging five months before the presidential election.

While Europe is reluctant to spur what could be a destructive trade war with Washington, ministers yesterday were adamant that the Americans should be shown it was unacceptable to extend their jurisdiction beyond United States borders.

Businessmen from Britain, Canada, France and other

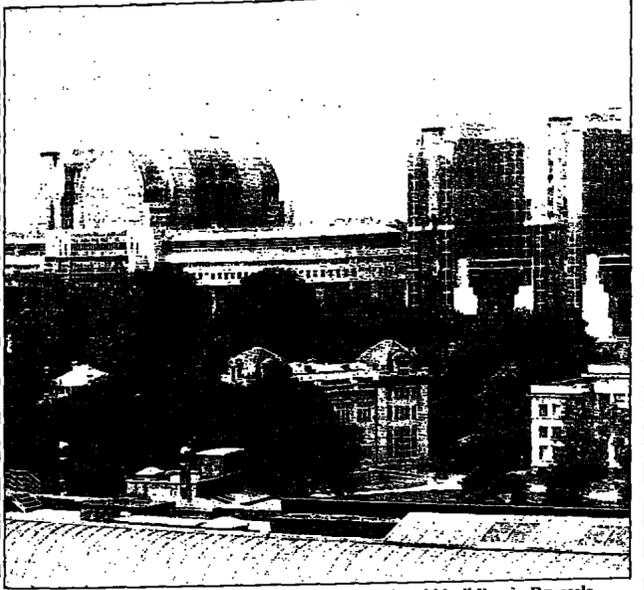
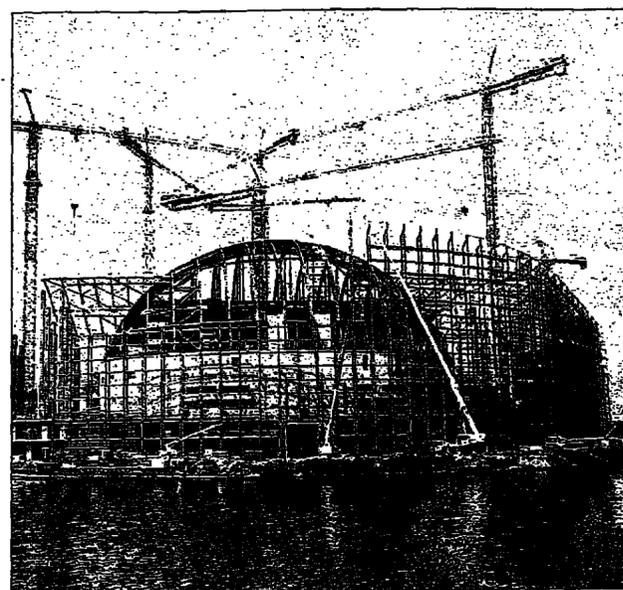
countries have been warned that they and their families will be barred from entry into the United States under Title Four of the Act, which has already been implemented, because of their companies' trade with Cuba.

The Carlson corporation, the Canadian owner of a large hotel chain, appeared yesterday to have bowed to pressure from Washington when it withdrew all plans for further foreign investment in Cuba.

The EU is worried that the successful implementation of the whole Act will expedite another law in preparation, being promoted by Alfonso D'Amato, a New York senator, to punish foreign firms doing business in Iran and Libya.

Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, said: "There is no doubt we are united in opposition to this. We are also greatly in favour of improving democracy in Cuba. We just disagree on the best method to achieve this... this is a matter that goes to the very heart of the United States' relations with other countries." Hervé de Charette, the French Foreign Minister, said: "This is a subject of complete consensus in Europe. No one should fool themselves over this... what shocks us is the unilateralism of the American approach."

The options being considered by ministers last night included imposing a European-wide restriction on the travel rights of US businessmen. Mr Rifkind opposed this on the ground that individual states should regulate entrance requirements.



The modern £500 million European Parliament under construction in Strasbourg, left, and 300 miles away the £860 million Espace Léopold building in Brussels

Euro MPs' tempers snap in city tug of war

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS

ONE of the loftiest views of Brussels can be enjoyed from the dining rooms perched atop the palatial post-modern pile known to locals as Le Caprice des Dieux, the whim of the gods.

A symphony of glass and grey steel, this 13th-floor eyrie crowns the vaulted apex of the new Brussels home of the European Parliament, an £860 million complex styled in tune with the grandeur of the European dream. Europe's biggest building project, which earned its nickname from its resemblance to a French chateau, boasts a chamber that makes the Commons look like a saloon bar. On its completion next Easter it will offer acres of offices abundant enough to satisfy the most pampered legislator.

However, these riches are an embarrassment for most of the MEPs. When they embarked yesterday on their last session of the

season, the plush 750-seat "hemicycle" chamber remained as silent as it has for 50 weeks of every year since it opened in late 1993. Along with a couple of thousand interpreters, staff, attendant lobbyists and tonnes of paperwork, the 626 MEPs will be sitting 300 miles away in Strasbourg, which EU governments confirmed two years ago as the site of its monthly week-long sessions.

The assembly has long met in an ample complex in the French city on the Rhine frontier with Germany, but now rising from the waterside there is another pharaonic new parliamentary seat, an edifice that looks like a gasometer and which, at £500 million, is only a little less sumptuous than that in Brussels.

"It is grotesque, it is outrageous," fumes Elisabeth Guigou, a senior French Socialist MEP and former minister. A partisan of the pro-Strasbourg minority, made up of

the French and their German allies, she is talking about the Brussels building. Gijis de Vries, a Dutch MEP who leads the Parliament's Liberal bloc (the third largest group in the assembly), voices the lament of the majority that abhors the trek to Strasbourg. "I can't see the House of Commons having to meet in Llandudno," he grumbles.

Today the majority of MEPs will air their frustrations over the absurdity of the moving feast in a debate on a vote to trim from 12 to 11 their jaunts to Alsace next season and to do away with their Friday debates, an event that few ever bother to attend.

They will lament the £1 million per year that it costs the taxpayers to keep each MEP in business. (The bill has risen with the Commons' big pay rise, because all MEPs earn the same salary as their national members of parliament.) They will

also deplore the indignities of a monthly shuttle that is compounded by the fact that the Parliament's secretariat is lodged in Luxembourg. But nothing will change because a mixture of EU power politics and sheer irresponsibility has condemned the Parliament to wander the Alsace-Belgium corridor for years to come.

The war of the competing seats has reached the level of scandal as costs have jumped by half in two years. MEPs were warned in May that they risked breaching the ceiling which fixes expenditure on their institution at 20 per cent of the EU's administrative budget.

In 1988, the Parliament staked its claim for a permanent base at the heart of EU power in Brussels by signing with a Belgian consortium for the Espace Léopold. In 1992 the French, with German help, prevailed on the EU to keep Strasbourg

as its official home. John Major brokered the deal at the Edinburgh summit that year.

Two years later, a French threat to block the arrival of MEPs from former East Germany extorted a parliamentary signature for the new Strasbourg building. The EU's court of auditors last year ruled that contract illegal because Egon Klepsch, the then president of the assembly, had acted without consultation.

According to John Tomlinson, a British Labour MEP who sits on the budgetary committee, Dr Klepsch's signature was "a tyrannical abuse of administrative power". The French camp rails in equivalent terms over underhand schemes to "rob" France of its prestige as home to the Euro-Parliament via reckless spending in Brussels. France is taking the Parliament to court for dropping the twelfth session this year.

Bosnia poll must await Karadzic's exit

FROM REUTERS IN SARAJEVO



Karadzic ineligible

INTERNATIONAL mediators said yesterday that the Bosnian election campaign, delayed at least until Friday, could not begin until Radovan Karadzic, the separatist Serb leader, quits politics.

Robert Frwicklung, an American diplomat in charge of the September 14 ballot, said that a "mutually acceptable" solution must be worked out with the Serbs before the campaign, originally scheduled to start on Sunday, could be declared open. "It is my unalterable position that any political party that elects, appoints or maintains in office a person who is under indictment by the international [war crimes]

tribunal for the former Yugoslavia shall be ineligible to participate in the elections," Mr Frwicklung said.

He heads the Bosnia office of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe, which is arranging the elections to reconnect ethnic Serb and Muslim-Croat entities in a democratic, federal Bosnia. Under the Dayton treaty, that ended Bosnia's 1992-95 war, no individual charged by the tribunal may hold public office or participate in elections.

Dr Karadzic, indicted twice for alleged genocide, says that he will not be a candidate but retains power through his

leadership of the ruling party. The main architect of the Dayton accord, Richard Holbrooke, is due in the region this week to lobby for Dr Karadzic's removal after France proposed empowering Nato peacekeeping troops in Bosnia to hunt down those indicted for war crimes.

Mr Frwicklung said he met Dr Karadzic's deputies last week to press them to deal with the issue and "give them a bit of space and time" for an outcome that would be mutually acceptable. "By definition, if this campaign starts on Friday, you can be sure that things must be straightened out by that date," he said.

Bosnia's Muslim-led central Government hinted at a possible boycott of the elections if Dr Karadzic and his colleague, General Ratko Mladic, did not bow out. "All the effort being put into implementing Dayton, including the elections, is in doubt because of their presence," said Mirza Hajric, foreign policy adviser to President Izetbegovic of Bosnia.

Brussels: European foreign ministers appointed Sir Martin Garrod, of Britain, to replace Ricardo Perez Casado, a Spaniard, as EU administrator in the divided Bosnian city of Mostar. He is expected to take over on July 22. (Reuters)

Richest 358 people own as much as half of the world

FROM EVE-ANN PRENTICE
DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT, IN TOKYO



Waigel: time for change

Bonn urges reform of EU budget

FROM MICHAEL KALLENBACH
IN BONN

GERMANY, which contributes four times as much as Britain and France combined to the European Union, has called for the burden to be spread more evenly and for Brussels to introduce sweeping reforms of the budget.

Theo Waigel, the Finance Minister, has been leading the Government's drive to meet the views of many Germans who have grown impatient that domestic interests are being overlooked in favour of European idealism.

At a weekend foreign policy meeting of his Christian Social Union, he urged the EU to revamp its payment system and said German taxpayers could not continue to carry the burden for other states. He insisted that, as the EU is enlarged, the number of commissioners must not automatically be increased.

In 1994, Germans paid DM27.6 billion (£11.6 billion) towards the EU, with Britain paying DM4.2 billion and France DM1.6 billion. The current budget arrangements, worked out in 1992, are due to run until 1999.

The gap between rich and poor has become so great that the world's 358 wealthiest people have assets equal to the combined income of 2.3 billion people, nearly half the global population, according to a United Nations report.

Furthermore, the rift is becoming more pronounced in rich countries, especially Britain and America, where the incomes of the poorest 20 per cent are less than a quarter of the national average. In Britain, the poorest fifth of the population have an average of less than £2,600 a year to live on, while the national average income is £11,100, says the UN Development Programme in its annual report.

In America, the gap is even wider with the poorest 20 per cent living on £3,700 a year compared with a national average of £15,600.

The gap between rich and poor in Britain and America is similar to that in Nigeria and Brazil, whereas in Japan and Bangladesh the average income of the poorest 20 per cent is nearly half the national average, the report says.

The polarisation of the "haves" and "have nots" is just as marked between countries as within them. While there has been "a dramatic surge in economic growth in 15 countries since 1980... economic decline or stagnation has affected 100 countries", says the report, to be published tomorrow.

"Although many are aware of this economic stagnation, the full extent and gravity are too often obscured because of the stunning success of the fast-growing countries," it adds.

China and most of Asia are among the economic success stories, while in many countries of Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union, aver-

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Oklahoma suspects bask in glow of courtroom notoriety

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN DENVER

THE two most hated men in America walked calmly into a Colorado court yesterday, exchanged jokes with their lawyers and settled down to hear early arguments in a case which could end with execution by lethal injection.

Timothy McVeigh and Terry Nichols, suspects in last year's Oklahoma City bomb blast, sauntered into the federal court in Denver after being transported from the nearby Jefferson County prison in a high-speed armed convoy.

Mr McVeigh, youthful and tall, smiled broadly as he savoured the crowded court. Dressed in a green shirt and pale chinos, he grinned at familiar faces in the public gallery and bobbed up and down on the balls of his feet, like an athlete warming up.

Mr Nichols, in a more sober blazer and open-necked pale shirt, remained composed, limiting himself to courteous handshakes with his defence lawyers. His hair parted neatly, he clasped his hands and clenched his jaw muscles as

the court awaited the arrival of Judge Richard Matsch.

The two men are charged with planning the lorry bomb which in April 1995 devastated the federal building in Oklahoma City, killing 168 and injuring 500. It was the worst act of terrorism perpetrated on US soil and such were the emotions generated in Oklahoma that a judge moved the case to Denver, 600 miles away, to try to ensure that the jury would be unbiased.

The morning session appeared to go the way of the prosecution, despite arguments by Michael Tigar, Mr Nichols' veteran attorney, that FBI agents did not go by the book when arresting his client.

Mr Nichols listened intently to his lawyer. All this time Mr McVeigh, sitting at a separate table, craned his neck and picked his teeth. He had a stare not so much of menace as of excited interest in the events occurring around him.

Judge Matsch, known for his tight discipline, entered

court room C204 at 9am to find it filled with relatives of the dead, with the media and an astonishing array of legal counsel.

The prosecution, led by wheelchair-bound Joseph Hartzler, who suffers from multiple sclerosis, consisted of 11 advocates and six government officials. The defendants had five lawyers apiece and an additional 16 supporters on the floor of the court.

First to speak for Mr McVeigh was Jerrri Marritt, a Denver lawyer. She sought the dismissal of evidence on technicalities. Judge Matsch denied her request, as he did an attempt by Mr Tigar to discredit the police.

Marsha Kight, whose 23-year-old daughter was killed, said: "Funny thing is, I can almost appreciate the way those guys feel. Members of my family in the past were grand marshalls of the Ku Klux Klan and I have a young son who doesn't trust the federal Government. This is very hard for me."

Portuguese world launches new commonwealth

Lisbon: Portugal and six former colonies, including Brazil, will fulfil a long-held ambition tomorrow to unite their 200 million people in a commonwealth of Portuguese-speaking nations. Following in the footsteps of the Commonwealth and the francophone nations, the Community of Portuguese-Speaking Countries (CPLP) will be launched by heads of state and top government officials.

President Cardoso of Brazil, whose country is home to 70 per cent of the world's Portuguese speakers, joins President Sampaio of Portugal, Pres-

ident dos Santos of Angola and their counterparts from Mozambique, the Cape Verde Islands and Guinea-Bissau for the signing ceremony in Lisbon. President Trovoada of São Tomé and Príncipe will be represented by his Prime Minister because he is campaigning for a second round of voting in presidential elections in the West African archipelago.

Lisbon gave up the last of its foreign possessions, with the exception of Macau, Hong Kong's sister territory, after the 1974 revolution that put an end to decades of right-wing

dictatorship in Portugal. But the idea of seeking to preserve historic and cultural links with the former colonial territories in a formal organisation has been gaining ground in recent years.

Portugal and Brazil, proud of their common language and cultural links, saw a Portuguese-speaking grouping as offering a barrier to the rapid expansion of English and Spanish as international languages.

In the former African colonies in particular, the future of Portuguese has been brought into question by the

growing importance of English for trade and international commerce. "It has been seen that Portuguese has lost influence when compared with other languages. I believe it is important to fight for the preservation of the language," said Senhor Cardoso in an interview to launch the community.

While the reinforcing of cultural and linguistic ties will be at the heart of the new organisation, political co-operation will also be on the agenda. The CPLP will have its headquarters in Lisbon. (Reuters)

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LAW 31-33
When the President had to back down before the judges



ARTS 35-37
Cathy Dennis turns to the Sixties for her new sound



SPORT 41
Beaten Hill must learn to lead from the front

TELEVISION AND RADIO
Pages 42, 43

THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

TUESDAY JULY 16 1996

BZW acts to stem Energy share slump

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

BRITISH ENERGY yesterday became the first privatisation since BP in 1987 to slump to a discount on the first day of trading. The partly-paid shares dropped from 105p on opening to a low of 92p and closed at 94p. After BZW, the Government's broker, moved in to try to stabilise the price. More than 165 million shares were traded by institutions but most private shareholders are unable to deal until next week when they are due to receive share certificates. The opening will be a disappointment for the Government, which had hailed as a success the £1.4 billion price it will receive from the sell-off. Bob Hawley, British Energy's chief executive, said: "I am a touch disappointed but this is not too unexpected given the weak state of the markets." But he added: "It is a long-term business and I am sufficiently experienced not to get perturbed by one dip."

The company's shares will prove a lot more volatile than those of other utilities. The privatisation, which has been dogged by controversy over the technical health of the generators and the low price accepted by the Government, is in marked contrast to the sale of the rest of the electricity industry. Although the second part of the sale last year of the generators was marred by the sudden reopening by the electricity regulator of his distribution price review, shareholders have seen handsome returns on their investments. Shares in Railtrack, the last privatisation, went to a 39p premium on the first day of trading. The flotation of National Grid last year also saw a small premium. John Battle, Shadow Energy Minister, said: "Shareholders who have failed to realise their expected gains will want to know why the Government didn't tell them of the operating problems at two nuclear power stations that seriously affect the commercial standing of the company. They will want to know if there was a cover-up by ministers to keep the privatisation on track."

Labour will today call on the Government to explain why the decision to shut down two nuclear reactors was only disclosed hours after the public offer of shares had closed. After the reopening of the distribution price review last year coincided with the sale of the second tranche of shares in National Power and PowerGen, the Stock Exchange issued guidelines to the regulators on the release of price-sensitive information. Government advisers have admitted that the sudden closure of Hinkley Point B and Hunterston B last week deflected some institutional investors away from an expected last-minute rush for shares. Over the weekend it emerged that failures had also been found at Sizewell B, the flagship generator, during a scheduled closure. British Energy is highly exposed to changes in output, with a 1.6 per cent swing affecting its profits by £20 million. But advisers also believe that the weakness of the equity market has dampened the share price. The City is expected to play a waiting game with British Energy. If the share price stays weak and if the stations are given a clean bill of health then more buyers are expected to come in. BZW is authorised to intervene in the market for up to one month to stabilise the share price. In a Commons written reply last night, Jan Lang, President of the Board of Trade, disclosed that almost 98 per cent of applicants for British Energy shares had received an allocation. About 41 per cent of applications, including all employee/pensioner and PEP bids, were accepted in full. Some 6,300 employees, or 94 per cent, applied for and received their requested allocation.



Name with a grievance: Captain J. B. Blackett demonstrates outside the annual meeting of Lloyd's yesterday

Names vote £440m to bail out Lloyd's

BY SARAH BAGNALL



Smiles of relief: David Rowland, left, and Ron Sandler

LLOYD'S of London yesterday took a crucial step towards securing its future when thousands of battle-weary names pledged to pay a £440 million contribution to the market's settlement package and overwhelmingly rejected rebel names' demands for improvements to the offer. Ron Sandler, chief executive, said that without their support the settlement process — and consequently Lloyd's — would have collapsed. More than three thousand names gathered at the Royal Festival Hall on London's South Bank for a string of Lloyd's meetings, including the annual meeting and an extraordinary meeting. As in previous years, the event was characterised by a degree of rowdiness as names expressed anger at the negligence and mismanagement that were partly to blame for losses of more than £8 billion in the past five years. However, many names also expressed support for the market's £3.2 billion settlement offer, which Lloyd's revealed yesterday had been raised by £100 million. In his opening address, David Rowland, chairman, said that although the offer was not "a model of complete fairness" it is "the fairest" that can be proposed. Sally Noel, a name, said the offer was "not good enough" and that "Lloyd's makes the mafia look like Dad's Army when it comes to expertise, greed and corruption."

Alan Porter, proposer of the extraordinary meeting resolutions, said the offer was "seriously flawed and inadequate". However, although final votes were still being counted at the time of going to press, the resolutions calling for measures to improve the offer were rejected by more than 80 per cent of those voting by proxy. Now names have until August 23 to decide whether to accept their share of the £3.2 billion settlement offer.

Damning report for electricity competition plan

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

PLANS to bring competition to domestic electricity could fail or lag behind the April 1998 deadline, according to a report that is highly critical of the industry regulator. The report by the Electricity Pool Auditor, which is due to be discussed at a meeting on Thursday, expressed fears that unless there is sufficient leadership for the ambitious project to enable 23 million customers to shop around for electricity "the 1998 programme as currently specified will fail or be significantly delayed, with the inevitable resultant re-remissions and potential harm to the industry and its customers". Coopers & Lybrand, acting as the auditor for the pool which administers electricity trading, said some of the industry participants it questioned in the progress report "felt that the deadline is already unachievable". The report finds fault with the participation of Stephen Littlechild, the electricity regulator, and Offer, his office. It says that PA, the consulting body used by Offer, was "seen by many as being gagged by Offer, leading to a lack of trust and credibility in them within the industry". The report accuses the regulator of stepping back from directing the moves to a competitive market despite being in the best position to lead it, saying: "In the views of many, Offer's contribution is still not sufficient."

The criticism turns up the heat in the debate over the timetable for domestic competition. Increasingly, industry sources are saying the deadline is about to collapse, while the regulator and Tim Eggar, the Energy Minister, have recently told the electricity companies to meet their obligations. Yesterday Offer said that the timetable was still attainable and that the regulator was performing his role. But a spokeswoman added: "Industry needs to deliver the necessary systems on time."



Littlechild: criticised

Siemens expansion on Tyneside in peril

FROM SARAH CUNNINGHAM AT LAKE COMO

SIEMENS, the German electronics group that received up to £200 million in sweeteners to site a plant on Tyneside, may not go ahead with the second phase of the development. The company is reviewing its entire programme of investment in semiconductor manufacturing, including its plans for a £1.1 billion plant due to open on Tyneside next year, because of a collapse in memory chip prices. Heinrich von Pierer, chief executive of Siemens, said: "We have to reconsider the whole situation of the semiconductor industry." The review is unlikely to affect phase one of the plant, at Wallsend, near Newcastle-upon-Tyne, which is due to open in a year's time and will mean 1,000 new jobs. Phase two, which was expected to start production within the next two years and create 500 jobs, is in greater danger and depends on the performance of the microchip market. Any scaling down of Siemens' investment plans on Tyneside would be

certain to stir political controversy and cause deep disappointment locally. Although the Tyneside plant is meant, in the long run, to make chips for more profitable applications-specific integrated circuit market, it will have to spend up to the first two years of its life making memory chips. This is the normal way to run in such a factory. Herr von Pierer said that he felt "very optimistic about Tyneside", but added: "We have to consider what investments we have not started or what we can postpone." He said: "We cannot make a quick decision and there is no fixed timetable." Some memory chip prices have fallen by 70 per cent since March, and Siemens yesterday warned of lower earnings from its semiconductor division in the year to September. In the first nine months of the year, the company's net income rose 18 per cent, to DM1.65 billion.

Pennington, page 25

Clarke expects growth without inflation

BY JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

KENNETH CLARKE, the Chancellor, yesterday expressed confidence that the strong acceleration in growth that he expects does not threaten higher inflation and made it clear that he is a considerable way from raising base rates. Testifying before the Treasury Select Committee on last week's Summer Economic Forecasts, Mr Clarke said he believed that there was a long way to go before the economy was at risk of overheating. In his view, the economy was "still warming up from a much lower temperature". He acknowledged current concerns about strong growth in M4 broad money supply, but said he was not yet persuaded to tighten policy because a host of other indicators were favourable. He said there was no evidence of capacity constraints in the economy, that producer prices were spectacularly down, and that wage behaviour remains sensibly restrained.

Mr Clarke also left open the possibility of a further cut in rates, saying that the economy had grown below trend for a long time and that even very strong growth is possible without higher inflation. There was no point, he said, in having monetary policy any tighter than necessary. On Budget policy, the Chancellor acknowledged that any tax cuts not regarded as prudent by the financial markets could be penalised by pushing long-term interest rates up. He agreed that more people would benefit from higher rates than would benefit from a small cut in income taxes. Mr Clarke acknowledged that there had been an unexplained shortfall in tax receipts over the past year, but said that no single explanation had so far convinced him. In the Summer Forecast, Mr Clarke revised down his Budget forecast of 3 per cent growth to 2.5 per cent, and predicted 3.25 per cent growth next year.

Anatole Kaletsky, page 27

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES
FT-SE 100 3998.3 (-30.0)
Yield 4.11%
FT-SE All-Share 1662.72 (-13.89)
Nikkei 21753.42 (+98.97)
New York 5483.87 (-28.59)
Dow Jones 643.11 (-3.08)
S&P Composite 643.11 (-3.08)

US RATE
Federal Funds 5 1/8% (5 1/8%)
Long Bond 7 7/8% (7 7/8%)
Yield 7.05% (7.05%)

LONDON MONEY
3-month Interbank 5 1/8% (5 1/8%)
Life long bill 106 1/2% (106 1/2%)

STERLING
New York 1.5505* (1.5515)
DM 1.5506 (1.5531)
DM 2.3548 (2.3537)
FF 7.5780 (7.5780)
SF 1.9442 (1.9534)
Yen 171.08 (171.85)
£ Index 86.2 (86.4)

US DOLLAR
DM 1.5195* (1.5237)
FF 5.1800* (5.1567)
SF 1.2554* (1.2556)
Yen 110.43* (110.87)
£ Index 97.4 (97.6)

Tokyo close Yen 110.84

NORTH SEA OIL
Brent 15-day (Sep) \$18.70 (\$18.55)

GOLD
London close \$383.25 (\$383.86)
* denotes midday trading price

BBC set to transmit in private sector

BY ERIC REGULY

THE BBC is to privatise its transmission system by the end of the year and has already received expressions of interest from a "considerable" number of domestic and foreign companies. International CableTel, the US-controlled cable company that recently bought NTL, the former transmission and engineering arm of the Independent Broadcasting Authority, for £235 million is one of the potential bidders. If CableTel/NTL wins the BBC business, it would have a monopoly on all terrestrial TV transmissions and control the vast majority of radio transmissions. Bruce Randall, an NTL spokesman, said: "The Government has not excluded us from bidding. If we got it, we would double our business overnight without doubling our expenditures." Bob Phillis, the BBC's deputy director-general, said the sales documents for the transmission business would be available by August. Lehman Brothers, the Wall Street investment bank, is handling the sale. Mr Phillis would not reveal the expected price range, but said that the transmission service has a book value of £210 million. The key factor determining the price will be the length of the BBC's contract with the privatised transmission service. If the BBC agrees to remain a captive client for several years, the price would go up. The proceeds from the sale, Mr Phillis said, will be used to help to set up the BBC's new digital broadcasting services and fund programming.

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Price of nuclear shares plunges Titan scheme reborn Goods more durable than the shops that sell them

THOSE 600,000 private investors who bought into British Energy may like to know that Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, thought it went rather well. He had "cause to be pleased" with the issue; indeed, he was "very well pleased".

His smug remarks came just minutes before trading in the shares started and the price plunged to a discount, a humiliation not seen for a privatisation since the second BP sale in 1987 — and that took a full market crash to achieve. By the time the damage was known and the price had hit 92½p, the ministerial soundbites had dried up.

Instead, the usual sources were suggesting that it was all up to the market to put right. Not our fault if the City can't see the value of this fine investment, you know. Free markets reign supreme. The discount on the British Energy shares was not quite being sold as a triumph for wider and deeper share ownership, but it was not far off it.

Privately, those close to the sale were dismayed, and desperate for the price to revive before much more harm to their reputations was done. There are good reasons, alas, why the patient may be beyond revival.

The peculiar timing of this most difficult of privatisations means that while the private investor may have bought a pig

in a poke, the City was able to count its every bristle. Much of the discount that the shares went to was a result of last week's shock shutdown of two reactors, which emphasised how unstable output, and profits, were. The news came after Sid filled in his cheque, but before City institutions made their bids.

To be positive, the shares are now clearly cheap, if you believe the dividend pledges can be kept, the part-paid yielding as they do almost 19 per cent, or twice anything else in the sector. This should propel some kind of recovery, except that from the end of next week private shareholders will be able to sell. An unknown number will cut their losses and run. Retail investors in such cases tend to hang on like grim death until the price comes back to what they paid — look at how many are still in British Gas. But any sales could force the price lower again.

The Government has, for once, sold a public asset for more than it is worth, if the current market value of the company is right. This should save some trouble at the Public Accounts Committee a

few months down the line. But do not expect too many boasts about the benefits to the taxpayer from the British Energy sale in the election manifesto. Private investors have votes too.

A gigantic mug's game

OLD Titan may be frantically clawing at the lid of the box into which the Department of Trade and Industry nailed it last month, but New Titan is out and free. Those behind the controversial business club have set up its second incarnation, without the big drawback of the first, the fact that it was illegal.

Lawyers, as anyone who has ever had dealings with them will know, are utterly inflexible, and they have been asked to bless New Titan for two main improvements over its predecessor, which was condemned in the strongest possible terms by the courts. The two distinctions are a stock market quote and a clear investment purpose.

Ho hum. The quote is on the Nasdaq bulletin board, explicitly



designed for the riskiest business ventures and imposing virtually no regulatory burden. There is no way in creation that New Titan, or Titan International LLC as it is now named, could find itself on the London main market, in its present form. The investment purpose is that some of the money received will go into other high-risk ventures, which hardly sounds reassuring. The rest, as before, will be used to recruit others into the scheme.

Let us quote from the application for membership for New Titan. "I fully understand," the new recruit must pledge, "that my membership fee will not be returned should individuals I introduce to Titan International LLC fail to become members."

In other words, it is the same old game. Find new recruits and you make a killing. But once that supply of new recruits dries up, as it inevitably must if only, theoretically, because when all 55 million now alive in Britain have joined, there are no profits for the last ones in. The pyramidal nature of the venture, with one new member signing up a load more and so on down the line, means this last generation must far outnumber those already part of the scheme.

Anyone tempted to join New Titan as it tours the country must be certain that they are not part of that last generation, doomed to lose their money. But, statistically, there is no way they can have that certainty. Statistically, it is a gamble that the majority of those who take part must lose. Statistically, it is a mug's game.

Electrical failures

THE principles of competition policy in this country insist that no player is allowed to strengthen his hand by buying up the opposi-

tion and using that increased strength, once there is no more competition around, to push up prices. There is little about a player that sits back and cheerfully watches the existing competition gradually sicken and die.

The death of yet another electrical retailer, Escom, the specialist computer chain, concentrates yet more power among the survivors. A recent report from Verdict, the retail consultancy, concluded that it was impossible to make money selling electrical goods in the high street. It is a conclusion hard to dispute as one surveys the corpses of those who have tried.

Earlier this year, Powerstore turned up its toes, having been the most aggressive and ambitious of the independents not long before. Escom itself was created out of the remains of Rumbelows, the rest of which was closed by Thorn EM1 as the former owner despaired of ever turning it around. Clydesdale, the Scottish group, went bust in 1994. The result is that if you buy a new stereo system or dishwasher today, you will buy it from an out-of-town shed, owned

either by Dixons or by a business such as Comet or the Scottish-Power shops that have the support that comes from being part of a larger group.

Much has been said about margins in electrical goods. But margins are the product of a free market and if they are out of line with market realities they should be self-correcting. Part of the problem is that today's gadgets are too reliable — they last too long before they need replacing. But if there emerge just two or three high street chains for the consumer to choose from, normal economic theory says that margins will rise from the barely sustainable to the more profitable. That is, the survivors will put the prices up. They say they won't. But they will.

Chips are down

THE Government, or rather, you and I, paid £200 million to find jobs for 2,000 Tynesiders. That aid went to Siemens, now dithering over phase 2 of the same Tyneside factory because of a fall in the price of computer chips. Might Siemens be persuaded to reconsider, in return for a few million more? And does anyone still remember the days when it was the workforce, not the factory owner, that threatened to down tools unless more cash was forthcoming?

BAT shakes up financial services to combat rivals

By MARIANNE CURPHY

BAT Industries has responded to fierce competition in personal financial services by launching a major revamp of its brands, including Allied Dunbar and Eagle Star.

The company said that it hoped to save £50 million a year over the next five years and that some jobs would be lost when computer services were amalgamated.

Sandy Leitch, chief executive of the newly created umbrella group, British American Financial Services (BAFS), declined to say how many staff would go. He said that Eagle Star had already shed 600 jobs and Allied Dunbar 250 jobs in recent months. "Job losses over and above what we are already doing are unlikely this year," he said.

Mr Leitch said that the new

group's name underlined BAT's commitment to both financial services and tobacco. "We are not considering a demerger at the present time at all," he said.

BAFS will include Farmers in the US and Threadneedle Asset Management in the UK. Threadneedle currently manages the assets of Eagle Star and Allied Dunbar.

Martin Broughton, chief executive of BAT, will become chairman of BAFS, and Mr Leitch, the current chairman of the three UK brands, will become chief executive of the new group.

BAT has been conducting a fundamental review of its business over the past year and had considered merging all three businesses into one "mega-brand". Last month

The Times revealed that BAT had shelved plans to buy a building society because it believed that the retail banking sector was too crowded and too competitive.

Mr Leitch said yesterday: "The price of buying a bancassurance is too high, as is the cost of maintaining high street branches."

He said that BAT was, instead, planning "rapid aggressive expansion", which included developing existing brands and acquiring new businesses. Buying a life mutual or a healthcare company had not been ruled out, he said. The group was also looking to grow in Asia and had applied for a licence to sell life products in China.

The news saw BAT's share price rise 6p, to 484p. The

shares have been languishing recently and since Allied Dunbar has no orphan assets and Eagle Star has very few, BAT has not enjoyed the boost to shares that other life companies have recently experienced.

After the revamp, Allied Dunbar will offer advice and protection, pensions and Threadneedle-branded investment products. Threadneedle will be aimed at the serious investor, with an initial focus on lump-sum investments, and Eagle Star will develop mass-market general, life, pension and investment products. Eagle Star aims to increase the number of products that it sells by telephone.

Tempus, page 26

'Error' by Cardcast hits shares

By FRASER NELSON

SHARES of Cardcast, the AIM-listed credit card protection company, fell 7p to 73p yesterday when it emerged that it had not signed a deal with Credit Mutuel, the French bank (Fraser Nelson writes).

Cardcast announced last Tuesday that it had signed a contract to supply Credit Mutuel with "Hot Card" files, detailing credit cards stolen in the UK, which would have represented the company's first overseas deal. The news sent Cardcast's shares up 1p, to 81p.

Nigel Whitaker, Cardcast's non-executive chairman, said that the premature announcement was due to "a genuine mistake at executive level", and that there had never been an intention to deceive.

New-look Eidos is playing to win

By FRASER NELSON

EIDOS, the former software technology group now specialising in computer games, yesterday distanced itself from the £1.95 million loss it ran up in the 15 months to March 31, saying that its future results would bear no comparison.

Charles Cornwall, chief executive, said that the group, which recorded a loss of £114,000 previously, had broken from its loss-making history after investing £41 million in the computer games market. Mr Cornwall said: "For the last three years, we ate money rather than produced it. But after buying the games companies, we have completely transformed from what we were."

Group sales were £3.7 million (£254,000), with a £3.5 million contribution from Domark, Simis and Big Red,

the computer games company bought in October for £15 million.

In April, the group bought CentreGold for £24 million. CentreGold is due to launch 19 games over the next 12 months. The group has also sold Centrgold's distribution business for £7.5 million.

Analysts estimate that the new releases, which include the exclusive games rights to the Atlanta Olympics, will lift sales to £57 million by next March, creating pre-tax profits of £7 million and earnings of 50p per share.

However, the company said that sales of their latest release, Big Red Racing, had been poor because of the popularity of the free taster version available on the Internet.

Losses per share were 44.6p (4.16p). There is no dividend.

Therapeutic scales back float price

By ERIC REGULY

THE rapid decline of biotechnology shares yesterday forced Therapeutic Antibodies to scale back its flotation price to 525p per share from an expected range of 700p to 800p.

The company, which uses a sheep's bloodstream to produce antibodies for the treatment of drug overdoses and snake bites, sold 4.19 million shares, raising £22 million before expenses, in an institutional placing.

The sale capitalises Therapeutic Antibodies at about £112 million, compared with an estimate last month of £150 million.

The shares, which are underwritten by British Linen Bank, will begin trading on the London Stock Exchange on July 23.

Tempus, page 26



Peter Wood, right, chief executive, with John Samuel, finance director, yesterday

Ellis to continue expansion

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

PETER WOOD, chief executive of Ellis and Everard, revealed yesterday that the industrial chemicals distributor was seeking more bolt-on acquisitions after spending £18 million on five new purchases during the past year.

Mr Wood said that last year's acquisitions, which included George Mann, a US chemicals distributor, and Surphos, a European distributor of surfactants and phosphates, would in-

crease sales by £60 million this year and would enhance earnings. Mr Wood added that trading was in line with expectations during the first part of this year.

Full-year pre-tax profits, excluding exceptional items, rose 22 per cent, to £21 million, for the year to April 30, in spite of a bumpy ride from fluctuating raw material costs, although these stabilised towards the end of last year. The company is now enjoying a small drop in

material prices, which will help margins.

The total dividend was raised by 10 per cent, to 9.2p. Gearing was halved to 16 per cent, while free cashflow increased to £39 million. European operating profits rose 15 per cent, while American profits increased by 18 per cent.

Ellis shares rose 2p to close at 282p. A final dividend of 6.2p is payable on October 7.

Tempus, page 26

Mercury sells stake in paging

By ERIC REGULY

MERCURY Communications yesterday sold its 51 per cent stake in Mercury Paging to an American management team for £30.6 million.

The paging company's other shareholders, Motorola and Mobile Telecommunications Technology, have also sold their shares, raising the total proceeds to about £60 million.

The buyers are Janice Fuellhart, the former chief executive of USA Mobile, one of America's largest paging companies, and Richard Reiss, a partner in Cumberland Associates, a private investment firm that was an investor in USA Mobile. Their bid was financed by a group of international investors led by CS First Boston and the Metropolitan Life Insurance Co.

Mercury, owned 80 per cent by Cable and Wireless, sold Mercury Paging, which has 250,000 users and is to be renamed Page One Communications, because of its relatively low penetration rates. It will, however, continue to offer paging services and will use Mercury Paging to operate those services.

The new management team said it plans to "invest significantly" in the business and will soon launch a big marketing campaign. The new owners hope to raise the penetration rates to the high levels found in America.

Company fears for contract as Aborigines defeat mine

RTZ drops zinc plan after protests

FROM RACHEL BRIDGE IN SYDNEY

RTZ, the mining company, yesterday abandoned plans to build a \$1.1 billion (£504 million) zinc mine in Australia. RTZ had its controversial request for new legislation to enable it to bypass Aboriginal land rights in the face of intense pressure from communities near the site, in northern Queensland.

RTZ fears that it is now extremely unlikely to be able to fulfil a contract with a leading Dutch customer that was to have been the key to the viability of the entire Century Zinc project. All work at the mine

was yesterday halted and virtually all of the 100 staff from RTZ-CRA, RTZ's Australian arm, were removed.

RTZ's action follows weeks of increasingly bitter clashes between local Aboriginal groups and the Australian federal and state governments over the mine.

Leigh Clifford, CRA managing director, said: "It will be difficult to develop the project in the timeframe required to meet the needs of its major customer. Failure to do so will result in the site, markets and development timing for the project becoming uncertain."

Admitting that its approach had be-

come "highly divisive", RTZ said that it would now be acting under the provisions of the Native Title Act, which safeguards Aboriginal rights.

The Native Title Act gives Aboriginal groups the right to negotiate with the developer, and could take up to 14 months to work through.

RTZ and its Australian outlet have already spent more than \$200 million on developing the mine, which, analysts say, had the potential to become the largest zinc mine in the world, with annual export earnings of about \$500 million.

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STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

Private investors hit by double whammy

PRIVATE investors must have felt like throwing in the towel after finding themselves on the receiving end of a double whammy from British Energy and Wall Street.

British Energy has earned itself the distinction of becoming the first privatisation to open at a discount on the first day of dealings since BP II. This was in spite of better than expected demand for shares from eager private investors.

Offered at 100p in their partly paid form, the price opened on a when-issued basis at 103p before slipping to a low for the day of 92½p. It later rallied to 95p, before ending at 94p, a discount of 6p.

Justin Urquhart Stewart, director of Barclays Stockbrokers, expects the price to recover. He said: "It was always known that this was going to be more risky than other privatisation issues. The 17 per cent yield is its attraction. Private investors should lock the shares away for a year and then think again about what they want to do."

At the same time, those hard pressed investors in London also had to contend with news of further losses on Wall Street, where the Dow Jones industrial average plunged more than 50 points in early trading, stretching its fall during the past few days to almost 130 points. It proved all too much for the FT-SE 100 index, which had put up a feeble rearguard action on Friday.

In the event, it dived back below the 3,700 level to close 30.0 points down at 3,698.3.

As one leading broker said: "Cash is king again at the moment. The market-makers are just keeping their heads down. The last thing they actually want to do is begin trading in shares."

That was clearly reflected in turnover that saw just 667 million shares change hands, including 163 million belonging to British Energy. So it was against this backdrop that Crest, the Stock Exchange's electronic settlement system, made its debut. Crest has been introduced to provide a more efficient settlement system that can effectively do away with share certificates.

Up to 11 points of the fall in the index could be attributed to GEC, down 13½p at 365p, after going ex-dividend, and National Power going ex its 100p special dividend. National Power finished 145p



Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, launching Crest yesterday

down at 399p. Elsewhere among the generators, news that ScottishPower, unchanged at 309p, was in talks with Electrelab, the Belgian power generator, came too late to make much impact on the price. As an act of faith Electrelab has bought a 1/2 per cent stake in Scottish.

Eurotherm shot up 13p to 547p as pressure grew for

on the rights price of £20.50, while the oil-paid tumbled 16p to just 2p, a discount of 48p.

P&O suffered rose 9p to 492p on suggestions that the Government is about to ease the rules relating to link-ups between the ferry companies.

Tesco was a weak market falling 11p to 278p on mounting speculation that it will launch a counter-bid for

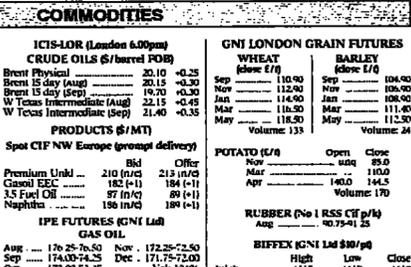
Viewinn, which is listed on AIM, tumbled 100p to 335p. The group provides hotel guests with information services via television. But a scheme to allow them newspapers electronically appears to have received a muted response from the hotels and faces competition from other suppliers.

Claes Hultman to be reinstated as chief executive. It has emerged that more than half the electronic group's institutional shareholders want him to be reappointed, just a week after losing his job in a boardroom dispute.

There was little respite for the underwriters of the £143 million rights issue of British Biotech. Ordinary shares fell 18p to £20.40, a discount of 10p

Docks de France, which owns Mammouth, the hypermarket chain.

First-time dealings in Fyarewood on the Alternative Investment Market got off to an encouraging start. Placed at 36p, by Charles Stanley, the broker, shares in the group, which makes professional audio systems, opened at 41p. The price ended the day at 45p, a premium, of 7p.



Share price

FT all-share Index (rebased)

Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul

BAA Group, the airport operator, opened firmer ahead of publication of a report on the company by the Civil Aviation Authority, the industry regulator. This will recommend what price the company should charge airlines to use its airports in the next five years. The price ended 7p cheaper at 478p.

A better than expected increase in full-year, pre-tax profits at Ellis & Everard was rewarded with a rise of 2p to 262p. Pre-tax profits were almost doubled at £25.6 million, helped by acquisitions. However, there was a further decline in gross margins, reflecting tough trading conditions in the chemicals industry. In spite of this, brokers moved quickly to upgrade forecasts for the current year by £2 million to £30 million.

Shares of Goldsbrough, the private healthcare group that is fighting an unwanted bid from Westminster Healthcare, saw its price drop 14p to 148p as its hopes of retaining its independence received a boost. Schroder Investment Management, the group's biggest shareholder, said it was rejecting the terms, valuing the company at £75 million. Goldsbrough says that it can now count on the votes of 35 per cent of shareholders. Westminster fell 14p to 295p.

□ GILT-EDGED: Investors put everything on hold ahead of a busy week that will see Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, give evidence to the Treasury Select Committee on the summer economic forecast, details of the next auction, and the PSBR numbers. In addition, Alan Greenspan, chairman of the Federal Reserve, is expected to give a rundown on the US economy.

As a result, prices were left up to their own devices and finished the day nursing sizeable falls.

In the futures pit, the September series of the long gilt ended 2½p down at £106½/22 in thin trading that saw just 22,000 contracts completed.

In longs, Treasury 8 per cent 2015 retreated 2½p to 97½, while at the shorter end, Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was down 1½p at £103½.

□ NEW YORK: US blue chips remained weaker in early trading. At midday, the Dow Jones industrial average was down 26.59 to 5,483.97.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):
Dow Jones 5483.97 (-26.59)
S&P Composite 943.11 (-3.08)

Tokyo:
Nikkei Average 21753.42 (-96.97)

Hong Kong:
Hang Seng 10800.13 (-2.55)

Amsterdam:
EOE Index 539.24 (-7.77)
AO 2147.1 (-12.4)

Sydney:
ASX 2593.53 (+6.27)

Singapore:
Straits 2180.80 (-28.62)

Brussels:
General 9322.06 (-40.44)

Paris:
CAC40 3209.51 (-21.04)

Zurich:
SIX Gen 796.50 (-4.50)

London:
FT 30 2723.1 (-20.11)
FT 100 3668.1 (-30.0)
FTSE Mid 250 4291.4 (-24.59)
FTSE-A 300 1860.0 (-14.2)
FT-SE Eurozone 100 1064.07 (-11.66)
FT A All-Share 1942.72 (-13.08)
FT All-Share 1956.56 (-16.56)
FT Fixed Interest 112.65 (+0.10)
FT Govt Secs 92.83 (-0.67)
Bargains 2.32
S&P 500 Volume 267.37
USM (Daxstrm) 208.43 (-1.40)
US 1.5506 (-0.0018)
German Mark 2.3553 (-0.0075)
Exchange Index 134.23
Bank of England official close (4pm)
EBCU 1.237
ESTOR 1.0757
RPI 153.0 Jun (2.1%) Jan 1997/100
RPIX 152.6 Jun (2.8%) Jan 1997/100

RECENT ISSUES

ATA Systems 136 ...
BATM Adv Cms 128 ...
British Energy (100) 94 ...
Central Mtr Aust (34) 92 ...
Circle Comms 180 ...
Cirqual 140 ...
Concurrent Techn 19 ...
Drings of Bath 4 ...
Electronic Retailing 148 ...
Fayrewood 43 ...
Independent Brit HI 7 ...
Lenting 4 ...
Lotteryking Wts 15 ...
NECA 18 ...
Pace Micro Tec (172) 186 ...
Pordum Foods 4 ...
Pordum Foods Wts 2 ...
Sun Life & Provincial 219 ...
Vocalis Group (95) 104 ...

RIGHTS ISSUES

Allen n/p (250) 2 ...
Brit Beech n/p (2050) 2 ...
Cowie n/p (355) 34 ...
Dixon Mtrs n/p (220) 41 ...
Doeflex n/p (230) 33 ...
Greene Kg n/p (545) 61 ...
Jhnstn Prss n/p (169) 4 ...
Kays Food n/p (2) ...
Mackie Intl n/p (275) ...
Orbis n/p (40) ...
Parson n/p (245) ...
Synco Gas n/p (110) 2 ...
Tinsley Rbr n/p (130) 5 ...
TransTec n/p (103) 18 ...
Vandy n/p (300) 13 ...

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:
Osborne & Little 725p (+15p)
Eurotherm 547p (+13p)

FALLS:
CMG (38p)
Micro Focus 718p (-40p)
Wetherspoon JD 895p (-49p)
Ocean Group 443p (-21p)
Scotts 715p (-32p)
Tesco 278p (-11p)

Closing Prices Page 29

TEMPUS Spring cleaning

THE financial services cupboard at BAT Industries has for years needed a good clean-out. Too many identical products gather dust on the shelves and nothing catches the eye of the independent financial advisers, the powerful middlemen who are increasing their control of the retail market. BAT was wise to reject the option of merging Eagle Star, Allied Dunbar and Threadneedle into a single "mega-brand", deciding to head research that showed consumers preferred to buy investment products from fund managers rather than insurance companies. And by expanding Threadneedle, BAT is addressing its lack of exposure to the IFA market.

BAT estimates it can cut costs by up to £50 million every year by amalgamating back office staff and computer networks. The strategy makes sense: though the brands will

remain separate, the distinction is little more than cosmetic. Threadneedle already manages the assets of both Allied Dunbar and Eagle Star. At present, Eagle Star's weak life fund will remain part of the BAT group, although there is a sound argument for stripping it out and turning Eagle Star into a pure general insurance company.

BAT insists it really has no plans to demerge and in this case, the unfashionable conglomeration of tobacco and financial services may serve it well. The pensions transfer scandal and downturn in general insurance hit BAT as cigarette sales to the Third World boomed. Now, as BAT is using cash to invest heavily in tobacco manufacturing overseas, life sales are starting to pick up and confidence is returning to the sector. Such a symbiosis is good for BAT.

Ellis & Everard

TARRED with the chemicals brush, Ellis & Everard has spent the past few years proving that a distributor can escape the earnings volatility of the chemical cycle.

Ellis has managed to raise its profits despite sharp movements in raw material prices and declining volumes as customers destock. At the root of this improvement has been a steady increase in net margin over the past few years.

Last year the company survived some major fluctuations in the price of raw materials in fact. But the company is now enjoying a 2 per cent to 3 per cent drop in raw material prices, which it expects to continue at least until the autumn.

Ellis also paid £18.5 mil-

Goldsborough

THE smart money sold Goldsborough shares at 173p at the end of June when Westminster Health Care announced its bid would not be increased. The latter launched a market raid, picking up 9 per cent but since then, things have not gone well, neither for Goldsborough shareholders, nor for Westminster.

Several fund managers, clearly miffed by the 156p cash alternative were not prepared to suffer either a capital loss or Westminster paper. Those investors, accounting for 35 per cent of Goldsborough, are sticking with Goldsborough and last week several declared their intentions.

At 156p, Goldsborough investors would not only be taking a loss but selling out at less than 12 times market forecasts of earnings for the current year. However, the question is not so much whether the price is right but whether the price will be suf-



ciently rewarded. The problem facing both Westminster and Goldsborough is a downturn in their market with cash-strapped local authorities beating down the price of beds in nursing homes. In response Goldsborough has been shifting its business to homecare, a less capital intensive business. However, margins on homecare are lowish, even without accounting for a share of Goldsborough's high central overhead and the barriers to entry in homecare are few. Competition will soon bring pressure on margins in this sector as well.

Private investors may win at accepting the 156p cash offer, but nursing their Goldsborough shares is not a sound investment strategy and Westminster is only a weak alternative.

Biotechnology

The equity market is beginning to develop a resistance

to biotechnology companies. Therapeutic Antibodies, the company that uses sheep to develop antibodies for use in treating snakebite, was forced to cut its offer price yesterday, reducing the amount of money it hoped to raise. British Biotech, the doyen of the sector, is also suffering; a substantial chunk of its one-for-eight rights issue could be left with the sub-underwriters. The mid-market price dipped to 2040p yesterday, below the 2050p issue price and a long way from the theoretical rights price of 2343p, at the time the issue was launched.

Clearly, the equity market has fewer sheep these days prepared to undergo financial experiments for uncertain reward. British Biotech looks set for a soggy period and investors may wish to pass on their rights this time. They may be able to buy the shares more cheaply at a later date.

COMMODITIES

LONDON COMMODITY EXCHANGE

COMMODITY PRICES AT REPRESENTATIVE MARKETS ON JULY 12

CBOT (p/b) 111.62 102.38

1/4-1/2 4.30 +1.12 +1.73

1/2-3/4 11.30 11.84 +0.30

1-1/4 14.30 14.84 +0.74

1-3/4 17.30 17.84 +1.10

2-1/4 20.30 20.84 +1.50

2-3/4 23.30 23.84 +1.90

3-1/4 26.30 26.84 +2.30

3-3/4 29.30 29.84 +2.70

4-1/4 32.30 32.84 +3.10

4-3/4 35.30 35.84 +3.50

5-1/4 38.30 38.84 +3.90

5-3/4 41.30 41.84 +4.30

ICIS-40R (London 6.00pm)

CRUDE OILS (\$/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical 20.10 -0.25

Brent 15 day (Sep) 20.10 -0.30

Brent 15 day (Nov) 20.10 -0.35

WTI Intermediate (Aug) 22.15 -0.45

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THE TIMES
CITY DIARY

Not exactly bubbling over

NOT a cloud on the horizon yesterday when, after so many false starts, the age of paperless stock market trading finally dawned. Or so it seemed. Crest, the new settlement system, had been running faultlessly since 4am and the first deals had been logged. Imagine then the consternation when minutes before Chancellor Kenneth Clarke, accompanied by Angela Knight, his Treasury Minister, were due to arrive for the unveiling of a specially commissioned sculpture. It was discovered that there was not nearly enough "sparkling wine" to go round. Ministers were dispatched to the nearest store — a Safeways supermarket directly below Crest's office.

Self-conviction

VOLUNTEERING to be a guinea pig to test the taxman's new self-assessment programme can be a dangerous business. Of the 20,000 volunteers in Leicester and Southampton, who have spent the last two years filling in the new tax returns as part of the Revenue's introduction of its self-assessment system, more than one has lived to regret it. During the course of the pilot, certain irregularities came to light in their tax affairs. Now they face the full weight of the Revenue.



"No panic — any minor leakage in our share price is merely routine"

Wilson? Who he?

SOUTHERN ELECTRIC shareholders who recently received news about their annual meeting will have done so with some puzzlement. Item three on the agenda is to reappoint Geoffrey Wilson. This is the same Mr Wilson who had in fact said last week that he was stepping down as chairman and leaving the company. The boardroom shake-up, announced after Southern Electric's failed bid for Southern Water, must have moved too swiftly for the administrative machine.

Sinking feeling

AN OMINOUS sign for Blue Star Line, one of the 15 City institutions who took part in the St John Ambulance Dragon Boat Race last weekend. As excited spectators gathered round the edge of Millwall Dock, in anticipation of the first race, the team from Blue Star Line, decked out in war paint and T-shirts splashed with the company name, made its way to the starting line. Unfortunately for the shipping company — its boat sank. Meanwhile British Airways beat Merrill Lynch and Save & Prosper for the dragon's head cup.

BUFA looks to be heading down the same flight path as its rival PPP Healthcare. Valerie Gooding, who was yesterday appointed managing director of UK operations, was a former British Airways director. But, for now, PPP Healthcare has the monopoly. Peter Owen, group chief executive, Bob Challens, managing director of PPP Healthcare, and Denis Walker, human resources director, are among a crew of former BA employees at PPP.

MORAG PRESTON

Public sector puzzle casts shadow over jobs figures

Philip Bassett on the contradictory data that has left Whitehall number crunchers worried

The Government hopes to announce a further fall in unemployment tomorrow. But behind the headline figures on the number of people out of work may lie further clues about a problem worrying Whitehall statisticians: the apparent growth of the public sector.

In the Thatcherite 1980s, cutting back the public sector was a totem of government policy. The Conservative Government since then has been keen to keep overall public spending under control by holding the size of the public sector under a tight rein, which is why a rise in public sector employment is both a concern to officials, and an embarrassment to Tory ministers.

The Government's jobs record will come under new scrutiny today when the Employment Policy Institute, the independent jobs pressure group, launches the first of its quarterly employment audits — a regular examination of the UK labour market. MPs on the Commons' all-party employment committee will also begin looking hard at what ministers regard as a key aspect of labour market issues — Britain's now-wage labour costs. And leaders of the Institute of Directors will also argue that the UK's social costs are far too high.

For its part, Labour is promoting new figures, drawn from official data, showing that 9.4 million people have experienced at least one spell of unemployment since the last general election. The Government, already promoting the UK's jobs record against other EU countries, will be heartened by a report to be published on Thursday, by the OECD, forecasting that Britain's unemployment performance is likely to outpace most main economic competitors.

But larger, structural shifts, such as an apparent reverse in the shrinking size of the public sector, carry an underlying importance. Figures from the Treasury show public sector jobs are in decline. In 1991, when the UK workforce stood at 24.5 million, the public sector totalled 5.9 million, compared to 18.6 million in the private sector.

Two decades later, with the workforce roughly constant, the private sector had declined to 17.3 million, while the public sector had increased to 7.2 million. Conservatives, appalled by this growth under the Labour administrations of the 60s and 70s, started hacking back the public sector. By 1993, the results were apparent: public sector numbers were down to 5.5 million, while private sector jobs had soared to 19.6 million.

The following two years saw the trend continue, so that by 1995 total jobs in the private sector stood at 20.3 million, up by



Hospitals are one area of the public sector showing a tendency to expand part-time or temporary employment

17 per cent since 1981. Public sector employment, meanwhile, was down to 5.3 million, a drop of 27 per cent on its 1981 level.

So far, so clear. Some of this is straight headcount reduction: the Government now employs, for example, fewer white-collar civil servants than it did. However, new initiatives demand new staff, and some cyclical events, such as unemployment rising and falling, have knock-on effects on staff numbers.

Some of it is a result of privatisation. With large bodies, such as BT, British Coal, British Gas, and the electricity and water companies, moving into the private sector, overall public sector numbers fall. From 1989, universities, polytechnics and state schools opting out of local authority control were reclassified as non-profit-making private sector bodies, and a similar transfer took place four years later for further education and sixth-form colleges.

But if the Treasury's figures seem to be telling a clear story, what is worrying Whitehall is a separate set of numbers which seems to be showing, in recent months at least, entirely the opposite. The Government will tomorrow release the first snapshot results from its quarterly Labour Force Survey (LFS), taken from a sample of 60,000 households in Britain.

LFS figures showed, until the winter and spring of 1994-95, a steady reduction in public sector employment. Since then, however, the public sector headcount has been on the up. The last two quarters have seen rises of 65,000 and 45,000.

Whitehall statisticians admit privately that at first they simply didn't believe the figures. Now satisfied that the LFS's figures are at least statistically right, they've been trying to find out what is going on. By gender, the detailed figures show a rough equivalence. Public sector male employment has been rising slowly but steadily — up by a net 62,000 over the past year. At the same time, public sector female jobs are up by a net 74,000.

Part-time work in the public sector has seen some sharp increases. Over the past year, total part-time employment in the public sector has risen by 134,000, while part-time private sector jobs rose by 56,000. Incomes Data Services, the independent labour market analyst, suggests that many public sector bodies, such as hospitals, are showing a "tendency to expand part-time and temporary employment".

The Government produces two main forms of employment data. The first, the Workforce in Employment (WIE) series, is based on a survey of employers. The second, the LFS figures, are a count of a sample of individuals at home. The two

series have diverged embarrassingly in the past, with each set telling a different story: one showing employment rising, and one showing it falling. Although they are running in broadly the same direction at the moment, there is still a numerical gap, and Whitehall officials have come to accept that there is likely to remain a significant gap which cannot be bridged.

Currently the gap, according to the most recent comparable sets of figures, is 731,000 for public sector jobs, and a little more than one million for private sector employment — though the LFS figure for public sector jobs is higher than the WIE figure, while the WIE figure for private sector employment is higher than the LFS estimate.

Differences of definition may be part of the explanation. So, too, may people's views about their own jobs, as measured by the LFS. Some people may be counted by an employers' survey as being in the private sector (people employed by a contract cleaning firm, for instance), whereas someone from such a company's workforce, questioned at home by the LFS, might see themselves as a cleaner in a public sector hospital and be classified accordingly.

Even so, analysts accept that such differences probably do not account for all or even most of the gap and more statistical work needs to be done. Before or after the next general election, public sector finances are and will be crucial. Labour costs form a huge majority of the total cost of the public sector, and whatever the Government's political colour, making sure of the basic facts behind those costs is a vital part of understanding the public finances, the labour market and the economy.

WORKFORCE			
Public and private sector employment in millions			
	Public	Private	Total
1983 Autumn	6,094	18,821	24,915
Winter	6,028	18,782	24,810
1984 Spring	6,048	18,921	24,969
Summer	5,984	19,246	25,230
Autumn	5,921	19,318	25,239
Winter	5,934	19,170	25,104
1995 Spring	5,980	19,227	25,207
Summer	5,929	19,513	25,442
Autumn	6,024	19,387	25,411
Winter	6,069	19,243	25,312

Source: LFS

Road to a better transport network is paved with increased investment

The CBI is today launching a new report calling for more investment in the UK's transport infrastructure. Adair Turner explains why business wants to see more money spent on our transport links.

Recent transport policy statements by both the Government and the Labour Party have one worrying thing in common. Neither says how much needs to be invested to maintain and develop our transport network to a decent standard.

In a political climate charged by hopes of tax cuts and fears of tax rises, increasing transport investment is unpopular with any party. But in terms of business competitiveness and broader quality of life, it must be a top priority. The CBI recognises the need for more priority to be given to public transport investment. But this should take place within an increased overall level of investment. Some road traffic growth remains inevitable and cannot be stopped just by switching resources to rail and away from roads. Potholes will not go away just because of added pressures on public spending.

The economic and environmental costs of congestion — £15 billion to £20 billion each year — will not fall without greater investment. And our ability to square the circle of environmental pressures and the needs of businesses through more environmentally sensitive road schemes, with greater use of tunnelling and other techniques, demands more investment not less.

Businesses across the UK have identified the need for urgent improvements across all transport modes. The investment proposals that the CBI is unveiling today in our report *Winning ways*, aim to tackle congestion, develop strategic corridors serving major markets, and manage



Adair Turner: "Without investment we will pay later through a lower quality of life"

some of the environmental impacts arising from transport. Over the next ten years, we believe transport infrastructure investment needs to rise to an annual average of more than £11 billion, financed by the public and private sectors. That compares with an average £8.75 billion invested each year in the past decade.

The range of business priorities for investment is wide. Improving strategic routes and networks by completing what is left of the national roads programme within 10 years is important, as equally is Railtrack's 10-year investment programme. Developing facilities at airports and ports throughout the UK, and particularly the links to these international gateways, is also vital for a country that is the world's fifth-largest importer and exporter.

But local transport improvements are also important. Greater resource is needed to improve local roads, including

bus priority and cycling measures to help to encourage a shift of demand away from cars. Further progress is needed on modernising the London Underground and developing light rail systems in a number of cities (eg, Manchester).

Equally, the CBI investment priorities highlight the need to invest more in research and development of new technologies in transport — 50 per cent more, in the case of publicly funded R&D programmes. This is critical to developing new ways of making better use of the existing network and to reducing the environmental impact of transport.

In *Winning ways* we say that nearly half of the proposed investment should be allocated to maintenance and renewal of existing road and rail networks. With a quarter of our motorways and trunk roads in need of major structural repair in the next nine years, for example, the need

just to bring the current infrastructure up to scratch is as important as increasing capacity. Improving the maintained quality of roads and speeding up the maintenance and repair process, are key to ensuring efficient use of the existing network.

The level of investment sought represents a 10 per cent increase on the high-water-mark year of 1992-93. We believe that this expenditure should be a high priority within public expenditure; it is more important to business competitiveness than tax cuts.

Over time, more of this will come from private-sector investment — we estimate very roughly one third — but there will still be a major role for classical public capital expenditure, and even the privately financed investment needs to be paid for by Government or by other revenue streams in the future.

higher level of investment. Government and the private sector must establish — possibly through fiscal reform and direct charging for road use — new, dedicated revenue streams that can finance future investment.

Greater investment alone is not a solution to our transport problems. We have said quite clearly that it needs to be part of a much broader strategy, encompassing better land use, planning, the encouragement of multi-modal links and fiscal reform that sends better signals about the use of scarce resources.

But, sadly, it is politically convenient at the moment to underplay the need to invest. Without that investment we will pay later through a lower quality of life. Through increased accidents when local road safety schemes are left on the shelf. Through congestion inside and outside peak hours on stretches of the strategic road network.

Or, indeed, through the missed chances to enhance our lives by providing infrastructure that delivers more reliable bus and rail services; developing international gateways that keep this country at the centre of world culture and trade; and paying for roads that are more expensive but quieter and less visually intrusive. Not to mention the chances missed in creating jobs in the still depressed construction industry.

These are the benefits that all too often are overlooked amid the focus on simply reducing capital expenditure. Increased investment is a key to both more efficient business and a better quality of life. The sooner that point is readily understood by all parties the better. The sooner we then get on with finding new ways of paying for the investment we need, the more rapidly we can make the investments we need.

We therefore recognise that there needs to be hard thinking about how to sustain the

ANATOLE KALETSKY

Tax cuts that are duty-free

I can today reveal a top-secret Budget judgment. Despite his reputation as a latter-day Iron Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke has decided to give the British public a big pre-election tax cut, worth far more than backbench Tories had dared to imagine in their wildest dreams. Next year's tax cut will be worth £6 billion and its value will increase even further if the Tories are re-elected in 1997.

How did I get wind of this most hallowed of government secrets? I cannot, of course, reveal my source by name. But suffice it to say that he (or she) is a highly placed and authoritative government official. Even more importantly, I can now assure you that the figure I was passed has been effectively confirmed in an official statement by the Chancellor.

Table 2.2 of the summer economic forecasts published by the Treasury last week shows that Mr Clarke now expects to raise only £298.2 billion in total taxes in 1997-98 — £5.8 billion less than the tax collections of £304 billion planned in last November's Budget. Since this happens to be almost exactly equal to my leaked figure for tax cuts of £6 billion, I can have complete confidence in passing on this information.

Those of you who share with me a Keynesian outlook on economics need not accuse me of apostasy; I am not saying that the Chancellor should recoup the "lost" £6 billion, which was partly (though only partly) caused by weak economic growth. All I am saying is that the economy is already enjoying a bigger fiscal stimulus than expected. Furthermore, there are many individuals and companies in Britain now paying substantially less in tax than Parliament had intended — and this, too, should be taken into account in designing future budgets.

If it is true, as the Treasury maintains, that new ways have been found by companies and individuals to avoid paying VAT and corporation taxes, then Gordon Brown is being perfectly logical when he says that a Labour government could raise billions of pounds in new revenues simply by closing such loopholes. Let me give a small but

telling example. A few weeks ago BAA, owner of Britain's main airports and, therefore, the nation's biggest retailer of duty-free goods, began a poster campaign with the following slogan: *If you don't want to pay VAT, then don't. To avoid paying VAT call 0800 544844.*

As it happened, I had considered buying a £700 cancerdrug duty-free the last time I went through Heathrow. However, I suspected that I would be guilty of smuggling if I brought it back into Britain without paying VAT. Nobody at the airport told me this, and when I saw the BAA hoardings all over London I began to suspect that perhaps I was wrong — maybe it was perfectly legal to avoid VAT whenever I travelled.

I phoned the BAA number and asked whether there was any restriction on the goods which I, as a British resident, could buy free of VAT (in fact it is illegal to bring duty-free goods worth more than £75 into Britain from a trip to the EU). I was told there was not. In fact, BAA would guarantee me a saving equal to the VAT on anything I bought duty-free at Heathrow. I then asked whether I would have to pay VAT when I returned to Britain. The operator said: "I don't think so, no." A BAA executive I spoke to gave me a similar answer.

That duty-free retailers should push for business as hard as the law allows is perhaps not surprising. What did surprise me was the Government's indifference to this tax-avoidance campaign. Neither Customs & Excise nor the Treasury had even noticed the BAA posters. Indeed, the British Government has always defended the scam of duty-free sales against the other governments of Europe.

BAA and the cross-channel ferries are powerful lobbyists for duty-free sales. But Tory backbenchers should remember that every time the Chancellor gives a lobbyist a tax break, he is handing out a tax cut; the same money cannot be handed out a second time as a pre-election tax bribe. So be grateful for the tax cuts the Treasury has handed out already; you can claim yours by going to the airport or hiring a good accountant.

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The author is the Director-General of the CBI

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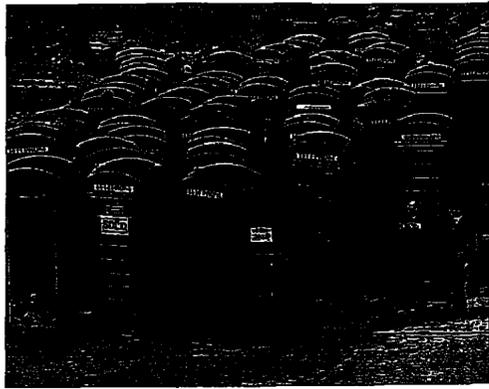
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Pot luck in print

A MANCHESTER has gone on the record admitting that he has smugly earned his place as a 'pot luck' in the 'Pot Luck' column since a 'pot luck' programme in March featured an anonymous magistrate who said that he regularly 'smoked' letters and articles in the 'Pot Luck' column for the magistrate's remuneration has been temporary, in the late issue by a letter from Man Bunyan a London JP, who says he experienced with 'pot luck' that 'pot luck' would seem a possible move and argues that his presence on the 'Pot Luck' represents 'pot luck for balance'. 'I am often confronted' by 'pot luck' with driving colleagues who wish to take a moment's rest from their minor attraction or who will admit, usually with a degree of naughty schoolboy humour, to having jumped a red light or been



LAW

● NEW DIRECTIONS 33
● LAW REPORT 21



A nurse confronts violence in BBC's *Casualty*: how far could accident and emergency departments go to tell the police about criminal behaviour?

The casualty criminals

Behind the dry statistics of casualty departments lie many cases of uninvestigated crime, says Jonathan Shepherd

The existence of unrecorded crime has been acknowledged since the first British crime survey was published in 1983. It is also almost ten years since my research group, by studying victims treated in casualty departments, confirmed the extent of unrecorded violence. The police record only about a quarter of those seriously injured enough to need hospital treatment. Yet, apart from a determined effort by Victim Support to educate doctors about the effects of crime, virtually nothing has changed in the way that casualty, often now accident and emergency, departments interact with the criminal justice system.

It is a continuing source of frustration for surgeons who treat patients with serious face injuries that more offences are not recorded or investigated. In a wider context, it is symptomatic of separately focused medical and legal perspectives that the journal *Criminal Behaviour & Mental Health* declared that "casualty departments are largely black holes into which victims are drawn, to be regurgitated back to their homes and communities without any attempt at prevention, protection, or support, or the apprehension and conviction of their assailants, who remain at liberty to inflict further physical and psychological harm".

The only code of practice for casualty-police interaction relates not to the larger problem of unreported offences but simply to responses to police requests for information.

On the casualty department side, research has found some astonishingly judgmental attitudes; for example, that the

injured are largely responsible for their own injuries, and that anyone hurt after drinking alcohol should be made to pay for their treatment.

These beliefs are not just held only by some coal-face casualty doctors. During a recent discussion about ways in which joint working might be improved, one consultant felt it was unethical to report serious violence on the ground that victims would be "shopped". He assumed that most were injured while breaking the law.

Uncertainty about roles also plays a part. Is it reasonable for the police to hang around the casualty department on the off-chance that a troublemaker or victim will turn up? Isn't it a mistake to risk breaching confidentiality by passing on information about the injured? Is it any part of the role of a health professional to prevent his or her patient being injured again by trying to get an offence investigated?

It is often assumed that casualty departments are so busy that no time is available for inter-agency liaison about individual patients. But research shows that casualty staff very rarely cite lack of time as a reason. It is impossible to justify lack of liaison in relation to child protection.

On both sides of the At-

lantic, violence and the fear of violence has assumed such importance that it is surprising that formal casualty department/criminal justice joint working has not been considered before. Though only about 5 per cent of new patients who attend casualty departments have been injured in violent crimes — just over 3,000 a year in the casualty department through which my own patients come — every one provides an opportunity for supporting the victim and preventing future crime.

To bring agencies together, I propose five reforms. First, a code of practice in relation to the reporting of serious violence by casualty department staff, without the victim's consent in some circumstances, for example if the victim is unconscious or if a firearm has been used.

Dunblane inquiry recommend that all firearm injuries of people who go to casualty departments are investigated by the police. Illegal gun ownership is known to be a serious problem; here is a new way to help to detect illegal use.

Second, victims attending casualty departments should be encouraged to report offences if this is in their medical interests; for example, if there is a risk of further physical or psychological harm. All vic-

tims should be given the opportunity to report offences to the police at the earliest time. Third, casualty departments should be integrated into community crime-prevention schemes by the universal appointment of police liaison officers and by making available on a regular basis anonymous casualty information about locations such as bars or certain streets.

Fourth, formal links between victim-support organisations and large casualty departments should be established in the same way as Crown Court witness-support schemes have been developed.

Services for this group of patients are rarely available, although psychological and social support is important. Because mental health resources would soon be overwhelmed if victims were referred in any number, a partnership between the voluntary sector and the National Health Service should be formed. Health authorities and social services are now able to buy this support in the same way as, for example, chaplaincy services.

Fifth, casualty department computers should be standardised and networked, with the proper safeguarding of confidential information, to produce an annual report on violence to complement the British Crime Survey. This could also be an important, and inexpensive way of measuring the effects of crime-prevention schemes. Assessments by

These areas are largely black holes in crime prevention

Crime Concern, the national crime-prevention organisation, of crime risk would be greatly strengthened if casualty data were included.

In a recent four-month assessment of city-centre crime in Cardiff, Crime Concern identified only 125 recorded street assaults, whereas 448 people who had been assaulted in the same locations during the same period attended the casualty department for treatment. Such reforms would need careful planning and, like child protection, should be developed on a sound legal and ethical framework. There is no doubt that some people are injured while committing criminal offences and that all the circumstances of assaults rarely emerge during a casualty department consultation.

But there is still much to gain by illuminating this dark corner of unrecorded crime.

● The author is Professor of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery at the University of Wales College of Medicine in Cardiff.

Lawyers will be the real winners

The European Court of Justice decided in the *Franovich* case in 1991 that a member state could be liable in damages for a breach of European law which caused loss to an individual. In three recent cases, the court has attempted to identify more precisely the circumstances in which damages may be awarded. But it has produced a confusing set of conflicting principles that pose more questions than they answer.

In *Franovich*, the Italian Republic failed to implement a directive on the protection of employees on the insolvency of an employer. The court stated that there was a "right to reparation" if a directive is intended to confer individual rights, the content of which can be identified in the text, and if there is a causal link between the breach of the directive and the damage suffered by the injured party.

This statement of principle caused great concern to many member states. Some directives are — to put it politely — difficult to interpret, and the failure of a state to arrive at the correct answer may not involve any fault on its part. To impose liability in damages might deter states from agreeing to draft directives, and could inhibit policy-making.

The European Court was made aware of such concerns in the written and oral submissions of member states in the recent litigation. In March, the court decided two joined cases. In *Brasserie du Pêcheur*, a French brewing company established that a German law about the purity of beer breached Article 30 of the EU treaty on free movement of goods. The linked case, *Factortame (No 4)*, concerned a breach by the United Kingdom of Article 52 of the treaty (on freedom of establishment) by reason of the provisions of the Merchant Shipping Act 1988.

The court said that, by contrast with *Franovich*, it was here dealing with cases in which a member state had a wide discretion. For that reason, there could be a liability in damages only when the law infringed was intended to confer rights on individuals, when the breach is "sufficiently serious", and when there was a "direct causal link" between the breach and the damage. This analysis sensibly limited liability for a breach of the treaty by imposing a test of fault in the adoption of the "sufficiently serious" criterion. However, the court implied that damages would be easier to obtain when there is a breach of European Union law in a context where a specific obligation is imposed on a member state.

It was, then, somewhat surprising that three weeks later, in *R v FIM Treasury ex parte British Telecommunications plc*, the

court applied the same criteria on damages to a case concerning a breach of a directive in respect of which (on the court's own interpretation) member states had no discretion, but a specific duty. The judgment in *BT* makes no sense other than on the basis that all directives confer a discretion on member states in some respects, even if not in respect of the provision which has been breached. But if that is the principle, it would conflict with the reasoning in *Brasserie du Pêcheur*, in particular, its explanation of the *Franovich* decision.

The problems have been exacerbated by the latest judgment of the court on damages, delivered in May, in *R v MAFF ex parte Hedley Lomas (Ireland) Ltd*. The United Kingdom acted in breach of Article 34 of the treaty by banning the export of live animals to Spain because of concern about the conditions in Spanish slaughterhouses. The court said that the *Brasserie du Pêcheur* criteria applied, even though this was not a case where the member state enjoyed a discretion. However, it added that where, at the time when it committed the infringement, "the member state was not called upon to make any legislative choices and had only considerably reduced, or even no, discretion, the mere infringement of community law may be sufficient to establish the existence of a sufficiently serious breach".

This conflicts with both *BT*, and with *Brasserie du Pêcheur*. In those cases the court had rightly made the application of the "sufficiently serious" criterion substantially dependent on the member state's fault in failing to understand the limits on its powers. Now we are told that the criterion of a "sufficiently serious breach" can depend on the technical question of whether the state was acting in an area in which (on the findings of the court) it had no discretion at all.

On an issue of fundamental importance to the community legal order, the court has produced three recent judgments which cannot be reconciled, and from which it is impossible to derive a coherent statement of principle. At the forthcoming inter-governmental conference, the United Kingdom is entitled to point to this as one example (there are others) of the need for reform of the court's procedures.

So long as the court continues to give one judgment of all the judges, and prohibits concurring and dissenting opinions, it will produce committee conclusions that evade difficult issues. The only beneficiaries will be lawyers.

● The author is a practising barrister and a Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford.



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ING LAWYER

Pot luck in print

A MAGISTRATE has gone on the record admitting that he has smoked cannabis. A debate has raged within the Magistrates' Association since a *Panorama* programme in March featured an anonymous magistrate who said that he regularly "smoked".

Letters and articles in *The Magistrate* calling for the magistrate's resignation have been tempered, in the latest issue, by a letter from Mark Buryan, a London JP, who says he experimented with cannabis at university, thinks that legalisation "would seem a positive move" and argues that his presence on the Bench represents a "force for balance".

"I am often confronted," he says, "with driving colleagues who wish to take a more lenient view than mine of some minor infraction or who will admit, usually with a degree of naughty school-boy/girl humour, to having jumped a red light or been

guilty of speeding." Such "minor" infractions can, he adds, lead to death.

New leaders

HARDEEP NAHAL, a solicitor with Herbert Smith, is the African, Caribbean and Asian Lawyers' Group's new chairman. The group of 700 lawyers and law students was commended recently under the Equal Opportunities



Hardeep Nahal: chairman

Award sponsored by the Law Society, the Equal Opportunities Commission and *The Times*. Paul Verlander of Buchanan & Llewellyn in Dorset is the new chairman of the Law Society's Young Solicitors' Group.

● THE NEW International Who's Who has a star-studded legal cast among its politicians, sportsmen and film stars. Yet, strangely, it has taken Lord Hoffmann, a new law lord, until this year to secure a mention. Richard Fitzwilliams, the editor, says: "Quite often it is because judges have not bothered to return the form."

Question of trust

WHERE have all the old professional ethics gone? A new guide for solicitors thinking of taking a partnership suggests that they ask: Could you trust your potential partners? Would-be partners are entitled to some straight answers

to some tough questions about the health of the partnership, argues *Tolley's Professional Partnership Handbook*, published by Smith & Williamson, chartered accountants. The book cautions: "In some firms, it may be wiser to remain a salaried partner or even a well-paid employee than to take on the responsibility of equity partnership."

Turf trips

THE Kempton race meeting last week had a distinctly legal flavour. Michael Pescod, Slaughter & May's corporate partner, had a bad day as his horse, Palamon, languished in the middle of the field.

It was not much better for the staff of *Practical Law for Companies*. Mr Pescod is on the magazine's editorial board, so they rashly put their summer party's slush fund to back his horse for a win. But Ray Tooth, the senior partner with Sears Tooth, a London firm, saved the day when his horse, Law Permission, won the fifth race at 4-1.

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There is no additional charge for this service: thus a normal firm entry (charged at £38 + VAT) includes the full firm entry, entries for all qualified staff, a complimentary copy of the 1997 Edition, and a full entry on the Internet. Solicitors wishing to take advantage of this service are invited either to indicate their wishes on the annual proof forms recently distributed or to write direct to the Publisher, George Rose, at

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LONDON & THE NORTH

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James D. Zirin reports on America's continuing debate on the workings of its judiciary

Judges who dip into politics

Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, last week advised against a Bill of Rights in Britain. There was a danger, he said, that it would draw British judges into making decisions of a far more political nature. And it would require a change in how they are appointed, making their political standpoint as important as their judging ability and leading to the kind of political scrutiny of appointments seen in America.

As the US presidential campaign heats up, candidates continue to debate the state of the federal judiciary. Of the nine members of the Supreme Court, two are aged over 70 and two have had bouts of cancer. Through the exercise of his appointive power, the President elected in November could profoundly influence the court's direction for the next two decades. Thus, both Mr Dole and Mr Clinton have attacked judges who made unpopular decisions, hinting that a major campaign issue is: what's wrong with our American legal system — and its judges?

The political debate should be a healthy one. Judges are also public officials who should not be immune from criticism. But many fear that the rash of invective to which judges have been subjected could have a destructive effect on the independence of the judiciary.

The issue was joined last January in New York in the courtroom of Harold Baer, Jr, a respected federal judge and former New York State trial judge and prosecuting attorney. The prosecution sought to have evidence suppressed on the ground that it was illegally obtained.

The court heard that at Sam in a section of the city described by a veteran police officer as the "hub of the drug trade", plain-clothes police officers saw a middle-aged woman slowly driving an Alamo rental car with Michigan licence plates. The woman stopped and double-parked. Four men walking in

single file approached the car from the opposite side of the street. Without a word to the men, the woman released the boot. One man lifted it open, the second and third placed large duffel bags inside and the fourth closed it.

According to police testimony, the woman drove to the corner and stopped at a red light. The officers followed. At the red light, the four men exchanged glances with the pursuing police officers and quickly went their separate ways.

The light changed to green, and she travelled for about two blocks before the officers pulled her over. Asked the contents of the boot, she replied: "I don't know." They requested the keys and found the bags, which contained 34kg of cocaine and 2kg of heroin with a street value of more than \$1 million.

Under the law, the officers were entitled to stop the woman only on "a reasonable suspicion supported by articulable facts" that criminal activity "may be afoot".

Judge Baer refused to find that what the officers observed amounted to "reasonable suspicion". He held that the mere presence of an individual at Sam in a neighbourhood known for its drug activity was not suspicious. Nor was the fact that an out-of-state licensed car double-parked at such a time and place appeared suspicious.

Flight has for centuries been regarded as evidence of guilt. But the court found nothing suspicious in the bizarre conduct of the men walking to the car single file, depositing bags in the boot without conversing with its driver and scurrying off at the sight of police. The judge rejected the testimony of one officer that there was something suspicious in flight. He rationalised that "residents in this neighbourhood tended to regard police officers as corrupt, abusive and violent", an attitude that rendered the flight above suspicion.

In suppressing the evidence,



President Clinton and Republican presidential hopeful Bob Dole: both criticised decisions of judges

Judge Baer applied well-established Supreme Court rules that require illegally obtained evidence to be excluded. But his decision provoked a storm of political controversy. Newt Gingrich, the House Speaker, and Senator Bob Dole called for his removal. President Clinton, who had "named" Judge Baer to the Bench, demanded his resignation, only to withdraw the demand after realising that he was no more entitled to demand the resignation than Judge Baer was entitled to demand his. All three politicians apparently ignored the constitutional provision that federal judges "shall hold their Offices during good Behaviour", which has classically been construed to mean "for life", and can be removed only by impeachment. The constitution is conspicuously silent about decisions that might displease the politicians of the day.

In the wake of the controversy, Judge Baer held a new hearing, and after some new evidence, reversed himself. The dramatic about-face touched off new charges, heatedly denied, that Judge Baer had only bowed to political pressure. Later, when the case was assigned to another judge, the woman pleaded guilty but reserved her right to appeal against Judge Baer's ruling.

Judicial deference to political pressure is not new in America. When the Supreme Court, in a series of 5-4 decisions in the 1930s, struck down the National Recovery Act, as well as other measures in Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal pantheon, the President proposed legislation that would give him an extra appointment for each member of the court aged over 70 years who did not retire within six months. Confronting the clear and present danger to its composition, the court shifted its position and upheld several other New Deal measures — also by 5-4.

After a recent spate of apparently irrational decisions by some New York judges prompted fresh political controversy, Chief Judge Judith Kaye of the New York Court of Appeals expressed "grave concern" about the "tone, frequency and volume" of criticism recently levelled at the courts by some political figures and said that she would defend the courts' traditional role as the guardians of sacred rights. And three federal appellate judges, in an unprecedented move, denounced Judge Baer's critics as forces tending to undermine the independence of the federal judiciary.

The shibboleth of "judicial independence", however, must not throttle all debate. For, as Justice Thurgood Marshall observed, the only real source of power that a judge can tap is the "respect of the people".

© The author, a trial lawyer, is a partner in Brown & Wood, a New York law firm.

What future for the professionals?

An annual survey makes helpful suggestions for law firms' futures

There was a neat coincidence last week between the Law Society elections and the publication of the annual Coopers & Lybrand survey of financial management by law firms. Both focused on the imperilled future of the legal profession. Yet the issues being addressed were almost on different planets.

The Law Society's problems have been characterised as centring on its conflicting dual role both as regulator and as a quasi trade union. However, Coopers & Lybrand reports that the real way to a better future for law firms is for them to become more commercial enterprises.

Success for many law firms, says Coopers & Lybrand, now depends on their ability to attract more work through marketing and then to perform it more cost-effectively, using modern methods and quality systems (echoes of the messages put out by the Law Society before the Martin Mears revolution).

It means that lawyers must move decisively away from the traditional trappings of their profession. The legal processes must be "re-engineered": lawyers must be clear about what they are trying to produce for their clients and to rethink from scratch the most efficient way of producing it. And that means big changes.

Steve McBride, the finance director of Hammond Suddards, is one of the keenest advocates of this approach. He is adamant that the old conventions must be stripped away. He says: "It is no longer realistic for solicitors to expect to have large offices or secretaries to themselves. Given the costs of rentals, lawyers must be able to work from cubby holes and to use information technology to do for themselves what secretaries used to undertake."

Similar issues are on the mind

of Peter Wignall, the chief executive of Ward Hadaway, which is now recognised as one of the North East's growing legal forces.

Having grown from a staff of 60 in 1989, the Newcastle firm expects to be nudging 200 by the end of this year to follow the path of Dibb Lupton Broomhead and the other big regional firms now recognised on the national scene.

Mr Wignall, who is not a lawyer but a former Marks & Spencer manager, said, when asked the difference between managing a law firm and an M & S branch, that the principles are similar. "The goods sold may be different," he says, "but the processes and practices we operate by are much the same."

Now that the firm is about to move into new premises, Mr Wignall is also acutely conscious of the need for cost-efficient space. He says: "We are ensuring that we have the facilities for people to work from home and to make full use of IT." By achieving its space goal, Ward Hadaway must be among the most efficient of the top 20 per cent of law firms in the country. But almost half the firms surveyed by Coopers & Lybrand are still giving fee-earners more than 300 sq ft each. This is clearly a tremendous drain on resources.

According to the survey, it is the medium-size firms that are really suffering. Small niche firms can still be very profitable, as can the very biggest firms with a healthy corporate base and the management techniques to maximise their effectiveness.

So Law Society elections aside, the real issues for lawyers are about efficiency and managerial vision.

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■ VISUAL ART 1
Michael Landy's alarming and bizarre *Scrapheap Services* goes on show in east London



■ VISUAL ART 2
... while the Saatchi Gallery gives space to Balkenhol's impressive but impressive figures

THE TIMES
ARTS



■ VISUAL ART 3
Ruskin at Oxford: a new show reveals the making of an eminent Victorian



■ VISUAL ART 4
Hands across the Channel: paintings from Le Havre come to the English south coast

VISUAL ART: Richard Cork is unnerved by two chilling views of humanity and the inhumane; plus other shows

Cutting mankind up to size

When Stephan Balkenhol's *Figure on a Buoy* was marooned in the Thames during the winter of 1992, a passer-by leaped into the icy water to save him from suicide. Seen from the bank, the distant wood effigy of a man in nondescript clothes appeared uncannily lifelike. But the would-be rescuer must have felt very foolish when he discovered, close-to, just how rough and simplified Balkenhol's carving really was.

As his exhibition at the Saatchi Gallery testifies, Balkenhol has no interest in deceptive illusionism. The marks made by his blade are left exposed on the methodically hewn surface of his sculpture. Although he paints these heads and figures, the colour is applied brusquely and does not hide the rawness of the wood beneath. In this respect, he displays a kinship with the German sculptors who revitalised a distinguished national tradition of wood carving early in the 20th century. Ernst Ludwig Kirchner and his allies adopted a deliberately "primitive" approach, cutting with such vehemence that their sculpture still looks rasping.

The wild spirit of Expressionism lingers today, above all in the gouged and daubed figures carved by the uninhibited Georg Baselitz. But Balkenhol distances himself from naked emotionalism. The most distinctive and tantalising aspect of his work lies in its refusal to convey strong feeling. Devoid of passion, the men and women he carves are united by their deadpan air. Arms dangling passively by their sides, they seem incapable of indulging in eruptive gestures. They belong to an everyday, matter-of-fact world, where nobody would dream of rebelling against normal codes of behaviour.

Even when Balkenhol produces a colossal head, he does not invest it with heroic significance. Rearing to a height of nearly 12 ft from the middle of the Saatchi's largest space, *Head of a Man* looks utterly impassive. There is something stubborn about his sheer ordinariness, as if Balkenhol was determined to produce an antidote to all those spurious statues of demagogues that once loomed over public spaces in Germany.

In his sculpture, towering size offers no guarantee of invincibility. *Large Man* rises almost 11ft from the floor, and is chiselled out of the same tree-trunk which provides an ample base for his feet. He leans at an unstable angle, though, like someone recoiling from a threat. And, as we move around this supposed titan, his

body becomes thinner. The substance he displays from the front shrinks, at the side, to a far more vulnerable attenuation.

Balkenhol likes to confound our first impressions by exploiting sculpture's capacity for change. *Large Male Head Relief* appears composed enough, sheltering within its unchiselled and projecting poplar surround. Seen from the right, however, the face buckles and contorts, ending up trapped by its wood container rather than nesting there. Near by, the bland normality of *Man with Green Shirt* suddenly loses its reassuring sense of wholeness: at the back, Balkenhol has sliced off his shoulders in a surprisingly drastic manner. As for *Double Identity Figure*, both he and his "reflection" turn out to be desperately thin from the side. They look like shooting targets at a fun-fair, and the "reflected" figure is pierced by a bullet-shaped hole where his navel should be. The longer I stayed in this exhibition, the more unsettling it became. Three life-size female nudes, standing on tall plinths each painted a contrasting colour, initially seem unexceptional to the point of outright dullness. But, as I moved among them, deep cracks became noticeable. Dark fissures ran down the back of one woman, while another crack travelled between the breasts of another. Whether or not they are simply faults in the wood, Balkenhol's unwillingness to hide them says a great deal about his interest in the understated exposure of infirmity.

Some of the exhibits are playful, and they show the sculptor at his weakest. One carving, of a doll-size man wrapping his limbs around a giraffe's neck, looks merely whimsical. And the circular convocation of bears perched on tall columns of lignum vitae seem ingratiatingly twee. They are unworthy of the man who is able, in another carving called *Harlequin*, to invest the simplest movement with a surprising amount of disquiet. The man's diamond-patterned shirt may look festive enough, but he gazes upwards and askance, like an animal sniffing the air for a scent of danger. In common with most of Balkenhol's figures, he resembles a bystander rather than someone capable of commanding and deserving centre-stage attention. All the same, his innate dignity and poise should not be underestimated.

The first time I saw Michael Landy's ambitious installation, *Scrapheap Services*, it occupied the derelict interior of the derelict Electric Press Building in Leeds. Now it has moved to the hygienic whiteness of the Chisenhale Gallery in east London, where the surroundings emphasise the clinical efficiency of the event he dramatises. The gallery floor is littered with a multitude of tiny figures, cut from discarded crisp packets, hamburger cartons or beer cans. But the employees of Scrapheap Services, a make-believe cleaning company founded by Landy a couple of years ago, are on hand to clear the mess away. The red-uniformed mannequins are silent as they spike, shovel or sweep their way through the detritus. A smoothly persuasive video is on hand, however, with a purring voice of welcome and explanation. Scrapheap Services is, apparently, "the cleaning company that cares because you do". Without a trace of genuine concern, the voice observes that "a prosperous society depends upon a minority of people being discarded". But the tone, become principled when he asks: "Why put



"The substance *Large Man* displays from the front shrinks, at the side, to a vulnerable attenuation"

up with unsightly people who are such a burden on your resources, when you can turn to the Scrapheap Services people-control range of products?" With the identical nylon-suited disposers at hand, nobody need fear being overwhelmed by these diminutive victims. However they may besmirch the Chisenhale's immaculate white floor, their unwanted bodies will soon be gathered, bagged and consigned to the equally red "purpose-built people shredder", dominating the room like a callous, hideously enlarged predator. Landy calls it the Vulture, and ensures that the machine's implacable presence gives the entire tableau a chilling air. The impersonal cleaners, with their corporate clothes and logo-decorated implements, are the anonymous servants of a system whose leaders care more about downsizing than people. Unsignificance is the only fault they can find in unemployment, and the pulverising Vulture can be relied on

to reduce all the redundant figures to a state of invisibility. But not just yet. Landy opts for the moment before the final sweep-up, when the embarrassing jobless thousands still defile the ground. Their head-up proliferation is the most disturbing feature of the installation, largely because Landy cut each one from rubbish he salvaged from take-aways and recycling centres. The extraordinary patience and devotion that went into the figures' individual shaping became clear when I examined them closely, and it made their disposability far more melancholy. The wastefulness of the whole operation hangs over Landy's elaborate enterprise, making a nonsense of the video's smooth-tongued sales-talk and ensuring that *Scrapheap Services* will remain a glacial parable for our times.

● Stephan Balkenhol is at the Saatchi Gallery (0171-328 8299) and Scrapheap Services at the Chisenhale Gallery (0181-981-4518), both until July 28

A breath of French air

John Russell Taylor on *Boudin* to Dufy in Southampton

Whether or not poets are the unacknowledged legislators of the world, there seems little doubt that the arts are frequently far ahead of politics in the absorption of new ideas. While political Britain still teeters on the brink of Europe, our south coast towns have embraced their opposite numbers in France with overwhelming enthusiasm. The latest manifestation of togetherness is *Boudin to Dufy* at Southampton City Art Gallery.

This is a selection of paintings from the collection of the Musée des Beaux Arts in Le Havre, Southampton's twin town, mostly by painters who came from, lived or worked in and around Le Havre. The most famous is undoubtedly Monet, who was born in Paris but brought up and took his first steps towards art in Le Havre, as well as painting there the picture that gave the Impressionists their name. That notorious *Impression* belongs to the Musée Marmottan, so is not present in Southampton, but there is a fascinating Monet of the old Musée des Beaux Arts.

If Monet is the most famous of the painters represented, Boudin is undoubtedly the star. Boudin it was who first spotted talent in the lively but conventional caricatures from which the teenage Monet made pocket money, and persuaded him to try his hand at painting. The Le Havre museum has the largest collection of Boudin's work in the world, and has sent a dozen of the best to this show. They are exciting, although to some extent misleading, in that the majority are unfinished canvases and therefore look much more "Impressionist" than they would if Boudin had carried them through to the degree of finish he would have desired. There is some irony in the thought that had Boudin chosen to carry them further, he would certainly have moved them further back in time, overlaying the first rapid notations with a much more academically styled image.

Even at his most academic, Boudin was still an enterprising painter with a very special

feeling for the windswept skies of the Channel coast, not to mention the charm of the fashionably dressed ladies battling with the breezes. He was born in Honfleur, across the river from Le Havre. Dufy, on the other hand, was a Le Havre native, though he strayed much further and wider than Boudin. The Le Havre museum benefited retrospectively from a bequest by Dufy's widow. The oil paintings include a sparkling pre-Fauve harbour scene of 1904, a stunning early Cubist view of the port, and a picture of the beach and pier at Le Havre, which exemplifies Dufy's style.

Though the museums of northern France are so readily accessible to Britons, there seems to be a tendency for the majority of British visitors to dash past towards Paris and the south. Hence a show like this is not only a breath of fresh air, but brings to Britain things that are really unfamiliar. Cheerfully, the traffic is two-way. A corresponding show will travel to Normandy.

Also in the Southampton gallery is the only significant marking of the centenary of John Everett Millais's death, which happened in the same year as Leighton's and Morris's. Millais was a native son of Southampton, and took his first tentative steps as an artistic prodigy there, before entering the Royal Academy Schools in London at the age of 11. Southampton has opted for intimacy. Everything is borrowed from Millais's great-grandson Geoffrey Richard Everett Millais, so the family emphasis is strong: childhood drawings, portraits of his own children. The greatness of Millais's finest work, that in the pure Pre-Raphaelite style, is hardly represented, which is a pity. But the part of the show across the park at the Southampton Institute comes close with an almost complete collection of his brilliant illustrative work.

● Both shows are at the City Art Gallery, North Guild, Southampton (01703 63769) until Aug 4. The Millais show is also at the Millais Gallery, Southampton Institute, East Park Terrace, Southampton (01703 319083)

‘They belong to a world where nobody would dream of rebelling’

Do as I do, as I see and say

Isabel Carlisle is intrigued by the teacher's art of Ruskin and Oxford



A Ruskin window design for the Oxford Museum

John Ruskin was one of those Eminent Victorians whose interests were so diverse that his life's work can be sliced afresh in any number of ways. Newly opened at the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford is an exhibition that offers a tantalising brief glimpse of Ruskin's relations with the university.

Ruskin, who was supported financially by his father's profitable sherry business throughout his life, went up to Oxford in 1837. Although ill health prevented him from taking his degree, his experiences there laid down the foundations of his interests in art and the natural sciences (linked, in those pre-Darwinian years, to religion). A drawing made in 1839 of the interior of his rooms at Christ Church shows obvious talent, as well as a characteristic technique, and prefigures Ruskin's preference for Gothic architecture.

In both writing about, and later teaching, art, Ruskin came to a fundamental assumption that nature was supreme and that the creative process was secondary to the act of looking; an offbeat proto-theory of the psychology of perception. He both collected drawings by artists that he admired, such as Turner and Dürer, and drew himself, to create a body of source material from which students could learn by copying. Among the drawings and sketches by Turner that Ruskin later gave

to the University Galleries (the forerunner of the Ashmolean) is *Venice: The Accademia*, whose dissolving, evanescent shapes almost certainly encouraged Ruskin's theories about form being conveyed by colour, not line. When Ruskin produced a flecked and stippled water-colour of a bright red apple on a blue background as an example for one of his students, he was trying out his theories. When he drew from nature, as in *Study of Gneiss Rock, Glenfinlas, or Stone Pines at Sestri, Gulf of Genoa*, he engaged with nature in

an almost mystical, and entirely personal, way. In these disturbingly intense, slightly surreal, topographical sketches Ruskin believed himself to be an agent of the divine. In that sense — his rejection of the artist's very human role as an interpreter — Ruskin was not himself an artist. It was this attitude that brought him into headlong conflict with Whistler at the famous "pot of paint" trial in 1878. Nor, when he was appointed the first Slade Professor of Fine Art at Oxford in 1869, did Ruskin intend to teach artists. He had much grander ambitions, to the alarm of the Oxford authorities. Seeing a drawing was to have an impact on the moral fibre of the Empire.

The teaching series, among them those labelled the Rudimentary and the Elementary, took students on the journey of Creation, from rocks, through plants and birds, to landscape and architecture. Ruskin's architecture rejected the classical orders and embraced Italian Gothic — it was nature at its best. Life drawing, which Ruskin found personally disturbing, was to be reserved for real artists.

The Oxford Museum (now the University Museum), built in the 1850s as a place to house the teaching collections for the

new courses on the natural sciences, embodied many of Ruskin's ideas in its decorative scheme. The Gothic window frames have carved into them birds, animals and foliage directly inspired by actual examples that Ruskin would bring to the stone masons to copy. It was the last gasp of a natural theology that combined art, science and religious belief. Ironically, in 1860 the newly opened building was the venue for a fierce debate on Darwin's *On the Origin of the Species* by *Natural Selection*.

When Ruskin expounded his theories on art in *Modern Painters*, the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood eagerly rushed to their studios to put them into practice. He taught generations of Victorians how to look at art, and knocked the classical ideal off its pedestal. No art critic since in this country, excepting possibly Roger Fry, has wielded such enormous power.

Perhaps the centenary of Ruskin's death in 2000 will give scholars the chance to bring the different facets of Ruskin's complicated intellectual life together and explain just why it was that he came to exert such an enormous influence on Victorian art and thought.

● Ruskin and Oxford is at the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, until Sept 15. The exhibition then moves to the Maugin Art Gallery, Sheffield, from Sept 28 until Nov 24.

AROUND THE GALLERIES

A SEPIA union flag hangs from a flagpole in the large purpose-built studio space which is now Richard Salmon's gallery. Across the room, over the exquisitely filled bookshelves, are two respectable paintings of strong, translucent, interwoven stripes of citrus yellow, red and green. Through in the other main gallery space, Jonathan Parsons's preoccupation with the potential of different media continues. By deliberately avoiding the mark of the insistent artist, Parsons must hope to bypass some of the more obvious artistic claims. Richard Salmon, *Studio 4, South Edwardes Square, London W8* (0171-602 9494), until July 23

□ Linda Karshan draws a grid each time as if for the first time. In this exhibition of many drawings and a few prints her working process appears straightforward and upfront. The abstract image — in graphite or ink — emerges through a tangible and automatic backward and forward movement. The paper also carries the odd footprint, which suggests that the work has been made on the floor. The graphite has a strange relationship to the surface, as if hovering over it without really penetrating. The scale of the work changes and shifts. These

drawings convey a tough and independent sense of self-justification. Redfern Gallery, 20 Cork Street, London W1 (0171-734 1732), until August 1

□ James Rielly's new paintings are more bleached out than ever, but his familiar technique of creating a kind of bumpy interference on the picture surface seems less pronounced. The troubled pictures of children with knowing expressions or grown-ups with child-sized bodies look at times as though they may have come from medical text books. On the first floor of the gallery Rielly collages a section of the wall with small paintings and ambiguously titles it *Random Acts of Kindness*. Images and associations are allowed to weave in and out, across the grouping. Certain pictures seem innocuous while others are disturbing. The atmosphere is more difficult to sustain in the larger single pictures upstairs; but despite the comparative lack of detail, the rapturously concentrating grown-up faces do still manage to convey a sense of toothless, wild-eyed abandon and desire. Laurent Delage Gallery, 23 Barrett Street, St Christopher's Place, London W1 (0171-629 5905) until July 27

SACHA CRADDOCK

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CHOICE 1 James Baldwin's early story, Giovanni's Room, comes to the stage



CHOICE 2 Another outing for Cole Porter's bubbly musical, High Society

THE TIMES ARTS



CHOICE 3 Michael Berkeley's Love is strong as Death receives its public premiere



OPERA British singers do Handel proud as Göttingen stages his Riccardo Primo

OPERA: Handel revived at Göttingen; sawdust thrills in Islington

Lionheart finds his voice

The Göttingen Handel Festival has been, for 15 years or so, the wellspring of a Handel renaissance. Under its two British directors, John Elliot Gardner (1980-90) and Nicholas McGegan (from 1991), a stream of important recordings of English oratorios and Italian operas (some never before available on disc) have derived from these annual performances.



British triumphs: Penelope Walker (Riccardo, right) and Lynda Russell lead the staging of Riccardo Primo

There is light on the horizon, however. McGegan is currently negotiating with another company and it is conceivable that recordings will resume from 1998. Sadly, next year's planned Xerxes—one of Handel's most popular operas today and badly in need of a new recording—will probably not make it to disc.

The choice this year of an opera with a subject loosely based on English history seems to have influenced other important changes. Although the festival's theme was "Handel and his German Friends", British representation was stronger than ever.

The Hanover Band replaced the Freiburg Baroque Orchestra, appropriately enough as Göttingen has Hanoverian connections: George II founded the university and William IV built the university's beautiful Aula, in which some of the finest concerts are given.

This year it was a dazzling orchestral programme by Concerto Köln featuring two Handel organ concertos and a brilliant double concerto for flute and recorder by Telemann which had the audience in raptures.

Another highlight was a performance of the oratorio Belshazzar, conducted by the Berlin-based Briton, Marcus Creed. It was superbly sung and played by the Rias Chamber Choir and the Akademie Für Alte Musik, Berlin, and two British soloists were outstanding: Lynne Dawson as a noble and effortlessly stylish Nitocris and James Bowman as Daniel, singing with an expressive power that seemed undiminished by the years.

The opera was no less of a musical treat. Riccardo Primo is one of five works Handel wrote between 1726 and 1728 expressly for his star ensemble comprising the alto castrato Senesino

(Riccardo) and two sopranos, Francesca Cuzzoni (Costanza) and Faustina Bordoni (Pulcheria). This trio was the "three tenors" of the day. But two prima donnas in a company is one too many, and their rivalry climaxed in a notorious on-stage brawl in Bononcini's Astianatte in 1728.

This rivalry, too, may be a root cause of the relatively low esteem enjoyed by the Cuzzoni-Paustina operas. Handel was so concerned to balance their roles—each having the same number of arias—that any coherent dramatic development was sacrificed.

Riccardo Primo may be a vehicle for virtuosos singers, but it has one of the most exciting openings in Handel: a storm at sea in which Costanza, the Princess of Navarre who is to marry Riccardo, watches the sinking of the ship from which she has just been rescued. There is also a rousing battaglia in which Riccardo defeats

Isacio, villainous ruler of Cyprus who hopes to keep Costanza for himself while passing off his daughter Pulcheria as Riccardo's bride. He is foiled and the denouement is not quite as even-handed as the distribution of arias: Costanza gets Riccardo's love and his kingdom of England while Pulcheria has to settle for his friendship and Cyprus.

There is a wobbly moment earlier, too, when Costanza gets to sing a ravishing birdsong simile aria with soprano line

order obbligato. It must have been all the more galling for Faustina because she had to remain on stage while Cuzzoni sang it.

The production was entrusted to Kate Brown, while Göttingen's regular set designer, Scott Blake, was given sufficient budget for a palace. These Handel productions are hardly cutting-edge theatre but Brown directed the principals with taste and discretion

The singers relished the exhibitionist vocal writing

LONDON ALMEIDA OPERA: The British premiere of Salvatore Sciaccaluga's Venetian, in which fragments of texts are arranged with an awareness to create a musical "old film in one act". With Susan Buckley, mezzo-soprano, Rolf Hind, piano, and Franco-Marie Ulli, cello, Almeida, Arundel Street N1 (0171-359 4494). Tonight, 8pm. (S)

CHOICE 1 James Baldwin's early story, Giovanni's Room, comes to the stage. VENUE: Opens tonight at the Drill Hall

CHOICE 2 Another outing for Cole Porter's bubbly musical, High Society. VENUE: From tonight at the Anvil, Basingstoke

CHOICE 3 Michael Berkeley's Love is strong as Death receives its public premiere. VENUE: Tonight in Gloucester Cathedral

OPERA: Handel revived at Göttingen; sawdust thrills in Islington

British singers do Handel proud as Göttingen stages his Riccardo Primo

The singers relished the exhibitionist vocal writing

HUGH CANNING

THE ASPIREN PAPERS: Michael Redgrave's slightly old-fashioned version of the Henry James tale of literary snobbery. (RHS) Heron, Gordon, Daniel J. Travanti, Mols Later, Wynneham, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-359 1736). Mon-Fri, 8pm; Sat, 8.15pm; mat, Wed, 3pm, Sat, 5pm.

THE CHOICE: Eve Matheson plays the mother-to-be in Celia Lockham's moving and semi-autobiographical play about a woman's syndrome child. (Jubilee) Jubilee New Play in the Marina/TMA Awards, Dominic Hill directs. Orange Tree, Clarendon St, Richmond TW9 (0171-891 0141). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mat, Sat, 4pm.

THE ODD COUPLE: Jack Saggart, Tony Randall play the two divorced husbands, hob and leopold, in a revival of Neil Simon's comedy. (Theatre Royal) Haymarket, SW1 (0171-430 8800). Mon-Fri, 8pm; Sat, 8.15pm; mat, Thurs, 3pm and Sat, 5pm.

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POP 1
Could Cathy Dennis buck the trend that consigns female British singers to quick oblivion?



POP 2
Foo Fighters and other tribes gather in Dublin for nights of fun and Féile

THE TIMES ARTS



MUSIC
Piping hot Gillian Weir proves to have no peers in the Saint-Saëns Organ Symphony



TOMORROW
New notes for an old venue: how the BBC risks all with its Proms commissions

POP: What became of club diva Cathy Dennis once the hits dried up? Alan Jackson reports. Plus, Dublin's Féile

New romance after the dance

This is, it is generally agreed, a vintage era for women pop performers. The once-in-a-blue-moon record buyer — the one who only braved the queue at the check-out whenever Dire Straits or Simply Red released something new — is now swagging out of stores all over the world with the current multimillion-seller by Alanis Morissette or Celine Dion. Female artists now dominate rock, soul, dance, folk and power balladeering. Such omnipresent talents are almost all imported, however. What you have to ask, happened to the British female pop star?

In the 1950s, they wore stiff, starched gowns and sang ballads, loudly and with full orchestral backing. In the 1960s, they all but took over the world. Pet and Dusty, Lulu and Sandie, Cilla and Marianne all remain musically active, be it in theatre, light entertainment TV or Brechtian cabaret.

And since then? Home-nurtured talent has either glowed only intermittently (Kate Bush, Joan Armatrading), or fizzled disappointingly (Ueki Graham, Mica Paris). Indeed, so critically diminished is the form that even relative stalwarts flex it gratefully — witness Kim Wilde who, after 15 years of pouting for Britain, now possibly her first kind review for playing a mum in the London stage production of *Tommy*.

The happy truth is that creative women demand more than just the chance to look decorative for a stage audience or TV camera. The British artists to have operated the most successfully within the mainstream are those who have made a highly individual but easily marketable type of music: Annie Lennox, say, or Sade. But what of those whose natural habitat is the pure pop song? Both Lisa Stansfield and Dina Carroll

would seem to have gone AWOL, leaving the feeble former Eternal singer, Louise as our only competitor to the genre's undisputed queen, Madonna.

So welcome back Cathy Dennis, whose career has neatly encapsulated all the highs and lows of pop. In 1989, aged 20 and as-yet unknown in her home country, she had an American No 1 as featured vocalist on the D-Mob single, *C'mon and Get My Love*. A first solo LP, *Move to This*, was released two years later

‘I felt as if I had nothing original to offer’

and brought her four further Top Ten hits in America. The follow-up album, *Into the Skyline*, was less successful, but not significantly so. And then... silence, at least as far as record-buyers were concerned. But although the Norwich-born singer and songwriter was not consumed by the same black hole that has swallowed so many of her peers, she admits that keeping going has not always been easy.

‘Three years ago, I was ready to give up music altogether,’ she says. ‘I felt as if everything had been done before, that all the good songs had been written, and that I had nothing original to offer. I had written and demo-ed between 60 and 70 tracks for a third album, but most of them were absolute rubbish — commercial dance-pop, so formulaic I could have produced it in my sleep, and with very little of my real self in it.’

Then her music publishing company sent her on one of its annual residential courses in the Devon countryside. Each morning for a week she and a host of other writers would be assigned a new musical partner and given the task of composing a song. The experience was pivotal. ‘Most of them had nothing to do with the dance world, and composed on guitars,’ she says. ‘And through them I discovered a lot of rock artists that I could like. I came back to London and bought loads of CDs, particularly by 1960s acts like the Small Faces, the Kinks, the Beach Boys and even the Beatles. I was a bit late discovering them, I suppose, but I got there eventually.’

The resulting influence on her work can be heard on a completely different third album to the one Dennis anticipated. It is titled *Am I the Kind of Girl?* Her clever, quirky but still very pop-orientated songs (one each co-written with Ray Davies of the Kinks and Andy Partridge of XTC) are full of life and humour. ‘I’ve had to ignore other people’s expectations of me and concentrate on pleasing myself,’ she says. ‘I’ve not played my other two albums since the day I completed them, but this one I’m really proud of.’

Radio reaction to a first single, *West End Pad*, to be released next Monday, suggests that Dennis might well be en route to a decisive comeback. Meanwhile, calls to their respective record labels leads to assurances that Stansfield (‘She’s very definitely hard at work on something’) and Carroll (‘There’ll be news of a second album very shortly’) are also planning long-overdue returns to the public arena. This, combined with the recent return of Gabrielle, can only be good news.

Am I the Kind of Girl? is released by Polydor on August 12



‘I’ve not played my other two albums since the day I completed them, but this one I’m really proud of’: Cathy Dennis on *Am I the Kind of Girl?*

Under cover, on the edge

Féile 96
The Point, Dublin

AS A rock concert featuring some of the finest guitar straddling acts around, the first day of the Féile in Dublin's Point Depot was a resounding success. As an attempt at rekindling the spirit of an outdoor music festival within a converted warehouse, it was a dismal failure.

It was unwise of the promoters to sell this three-day bash in the city's docklands as Féile in the first place. For many kids, Féile had once meant being able to roam about Gaelic football stadiums in Tipperary and Cork in brazen search of a good time. It offered the perfect environment in which to experience their first concert, their first weekend sleeping in a poky tent away from the ever-vigilant eyes of their parents.

This time around, the multitude of security personnel stalking the teenagers' every move was such that the venue often seemed like nothing more than a giant creche. The number of rules and regulations to be obeyed took the science of crowd control to a whole new level.

To be fair, the organisers of this event were under intense scrutiny themselves in the wake of the tragic death of a 16-year-old girl at a recent gig at this very venue. Their determination to do it right, no such incident ever recurs is understandable.

And so to the music. Joyrider, the Irish guitar combo, opened proceedings with a competent set in front of a sparse crowd. Then American hardcore degenerates The Jesus Lizard tried to hold us to ransom with a brutal sonic maelstrom of songs from their recent album, *Shot*.

The intense, cacophonous exorcisms of the Afghan Whigs' Greg Dulli proved more enchanting in live performance than on record, but

they seemed a trifle one-dimensional when compared with the multi-faceted genius of Beck. From the stamping psychedelic blues of *Devil's Haircut* to *Loser*, the signature tune of a disaffected generation, Beck was the embodiment of cucumber-cool self-confidence as he and his accomplished four-piece band combined music genres as diverse as rap, folk, hip hop, grunge and blues, sometimes all within one song.

The steely, resilient, passionate *Manic Street Preachers* won me over to their cause, while the main attraction, Dave Grohl's Foo Fighters, disappointed me slightly with a rather loose, unsuitable performance that did not do justice to the Seattle grunge band's excellent debut album. But more than 4,000 of their fans would, I'm sure, beg to differ.

Either through a sense of anti-climax or because they didn't realise there was indeed another band due on, a large proportion of the crowd went home at this stage. Boy, should they have stayed! Teenage Fanclub were, in a word, magnificent. The sun-kissed harmonies of Norman Blake and Gerry Love, wedded to the ragged glory of Blake's and Raymond McGinley's guitars, make this band truly special. Towards the end of the set, they invited an enthusiastic fan on stage to add tambourine and backing vocals, and one could not help but smile and feel a profound sense of relief that spontaneity had not been completely excised from the day's proceedings.

NICK KELLY

Hardbop grandpop swings on

ALTHOUGH he has adopted the tag ‘The Hardbop Grandpop’, even using it for the title of his new album, American pianist Horace Silver acknowledges that his ‘influences and inspirations go back to the swing era’. Thus the live septet sound of the man who spawned a movement in the 1950s with such compositions as *Opus de Funk* and *The Preacher*, and whose distinctive soul-jazz

JAZZ
Horace Silver
Forum, NWS

with a funky backbeat today provides such rich pickings for the hippest of samplers, can at times resemble that of an avowedly mainstream figure — Humphrey Lyttelton.

Ironically, the vast majority of Silver's large and faithful following would never consider attending a Lyttelton concert and his work remains unsampled, but the strictly musical similarities between the two senior jazzmen are more than fanciful. The explanation lies in the material Silver presented.

All but the concluding classic, *Song for My Father*, were taken from *The Hardbop Grandpop*, and although the basic mix of Silver influences remains unchanged — jazzy soul jostling with smart Latin beats, unadorned peppy struts rubbing shoulders with mid-tempo blues material — the funky bite of old is largely absent, the overall sound altogether mellower. True, the concert's opener, *I Want You*, was an insistent buster with a beat Silver admitted to bor-

rowing from Bo Diddley, but the neatness of the arrangement, and the straightforwardly swinging solos — particularly from trumpeter Ron Stout — harked back to pre-bop times as much as to Silver's heyday.

What he lacked in outright trenchancy he more than made up for with delicacy and sly wit. In *I Got the Blues in Santa Cruz*, which featured a typically cogent contribution from late-substitute UK-based tenorman Jean Toussaint — and his most famous tune, *Song for My Father*, Silver demonstrated that he is still a deeply affecting soloist. His rhythmic sense has always been unequalled: hard-bopper or mainstreamer, he continues to justify his near-legendary status.

CHRIS PARKER

CLASSICAL CHOICE
A guide to the best available recordings, presented in conjunction with Radio 3

SAINT-SAËNS
SYMPHONY NO 3
by Edward Greenfield

When composing his Symphony No 3, or Organ Symphony, Saint-Saëns sent a message to the secretary of the Royal Philharmonic Society in London, which had commissioned the piece: ‘It will be terrifying. I warn you.’ Saint-Saëns was referring to the extravagance of the scoring, with a role for the organ, two pianos, triple woodwind and heavy brass.

Reflecting his dedication to the work to the memory of Franz Liszt, Saint-Saëns subjects his main theme, based on the *Dies Irae*, to an elaborate series of Lisztian transformations, providing the thematic material for a large-scale symphonic structure.

To sound idiomatic, the Organ Symphony has to be treated with fair freedom over phrasing and speed-changes. Herbert von Karajan with the Berlin Philharmonic in his 1981 recording for DG, at very slow speeds loses tension. James Levine with the same orchestra five years later, also on DG, is more understanding but larger-than-life.

The 1959 recording from Charles Munch and the Boston Symphony Orchestra on RCA is most persuasive in its flexibility and power but lacks gentler dynamics. Jean Martinon's two recordings



with the French National Radio Orchestra are the most idiomatic sounding of all. The more recent 1975 EMI one is outstanding. This is the best budget choice.

At mid-price on DG Daniel Barenboim and the Chicago Symphony Orchestra in their 1976 recording give a ripe reading. Mariss Jansons and the Oslo Philharmonic Orchestra on EMI offer in many ways the subtlest version of all, but the finale is marred by slow speed and grating, super-imposed organ sound.

Among modern digital recordings, a clear first choice is the Chandos version from Yau-Pascal Tortelier and the Ulster Orchestra with Gillian Weir on the organ (Chandos CHAN 8822-2, £13.99). The exceptionally rich sound brings out the full range of a warmly idiomatic reading, marked by superb ensemble. It conveys the rush of adrenaline which in the finale must crown a really satisfying performance, skirting vulgarity by a mere whisker.

Pageant of detail

TEN YEARS after its own creation, the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment chose Haydn's *The Creation* with which to celebrate its first decade. When the orchestra first appeared its principles seemed every bit as enlightened as the period on which it initially focused and whose ideals are hymned in Haydn's great work.

Man as the crowning glory of creation, wisdom shining from his eyes and his ‘arched brow sublime’: just the image for a new, co-operative and democratic orchestra, reinvigorating ‘period’ performance with the inspiration of a roster of guest conductors, from Gustav Leonhardt and Frans Bruggen to Charles Mackerras and Simon Rattle. Simon Rattle was to have conducted this anniversary *Creation*, but a family bereavement led to his place being taken by Roger Norrington, who revelled in a rare opportunity to make music with many close colleagues in a different incarnation. If there is any late 18th-century work which vindicates the use of period instruments, this is it. And with Norrington throwing each instrumental voice into sharp relief through the vigour of his rhythmic articulation and sweep of

CONCERT
OAE/Norrington
Queen Elizabeth Hall

phrase, the performance took on the character of a pageant of incident and detail.

There was the contrast between the compacted energy of the opening chords, and the long, singing chord which heralded the magic flutes of Part Three with its new humanity. There were the sweeping upbows as the Spirit of God moved upon the waters, and the dark spirits of Hell, flaring in the voice of a single, snarling flute. There were the sad steps of the double-basses' lunar journey; and the glorious extended bestiary of horn, clarinet and contra-bassoon.

The evening's soloists moved from the archangelic to the mortal with energy: Hillevi Martinpelto radiant as Gabriel and Eva; Robert Lloyd heroic as Raphael and Adam; while John Mark Ainsley as Uriel, announcing the creation of mankind itself seemed, together with the outstanding choir, the voice of Enlightenment incarnate.

HILARY FINCH

AN EXCLUSIVE TIMES COMPETITION

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The Times has teamed up with Kodak to offer you the chance to win the trip of a lifetime — a VIP holiday for two to the Olympic Games in Atlanta. The prize includes five nights with breakfast at the luxurious Stouffer Renaissance Hotel, £500 spending money, entry to the athletics and basketball finals and the closing ceremony. Throughout the six days, expert couriers will be on hand to guide you in Atlanta. Our winner and his/her partner will get a Kodak Olympic pack containing a cooler bag, T-shirt and a Kodak Fun Sports waterproof camera, and 10 rolls of Kodak Gold Ultra film.

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DAY THREE Spend the day at the Olympic retreat in Callaway Gardens. Enjoy a southern-style lunch. In the evening, watch men's basketball at the Georgia Dome.
DAY FOUR Day at leisure. You will spend the evening at the Olympic Stadium where the athletics finals include the women's high jump, men's javelin, men's and women's 4x100m, men's and women's 1500m and 4x400m and the men's 5000m.
DAY FIVE Spend the day in downtown Atlanta with the chance to visit the World of Coca-Cola, the Olympic Centennial Park and CNN. In the evening you will attend the closing ceremony of the 1996 Olympic Games.
DAY SIX Morning at leisure before your return flight to London.

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Which one of the following has won Olympic gold? a) Colin Jackson b) Steve Backley c) Daley Thompson

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Bowls considers putting old surfaces out to grass



High costs are a threat to the future of grass greens

A grassroots revolution is taking place in bowls. Britain's flat-green bowlers believe that the grass on the other side of the millennium may not only be greener — but synthetic to boot. The situation is so grave that, after the revolution, there may be no grass roots at all.

Financial considerations have convinced many bowls administrators that artificial surfaces should replace Cumberland turf, while the poor state of so many greens has persuaded some leading players to vote for a synthetic solution.

One county association, Suffolk, opted to play their home Middleton Cup this summer on a synthetic green — a first in the 85-year history of the county competition. They are not alone in their concern. When, last month, Cumberland, the county champions, were beaten at home on a surface pitted by fungus, most of their players would have wished that they had been playing elsewhere.

Now, the World Bowls Board (WBB) has approved the laying of artificial greens in Kuala Lumpur, where the 1998 Commonwealth

David Rhys Jones looks at a revolution which could end with one of Britain's ancient sports being changed for ever by the arrival of synthetic surfaces

Games bowls competition will probably be played on a synthetic surface for the first time.

David Johnson, the WBB secretary, said: "We have an open mind. If an artificial green can be produced that is as good as grass, we have no objections and are working with manufacturers to ensure that standards are established and maintained."

Expertise seems to have been lost after greenkeepers stopped shaving the grass with a scythe. David Bryant, the most famous name in the sport, said: "In the old days, greenkeepers used to treat their work as a labour of love, and greens were flat, smooth and perfectly true."

Tony Allcock, Bryant's successor as world outdoor champion, said: "It makes me sad, because I prefer playing on good, fast, true-running grass greens, but we have to admit

they just aren't around any more, and a good artificial green is much better than a poor grass one."

Allcock, who officially opened a new artificial green in Basildon, Essex, last month, said: "Whether we like it or not, it's the thing of the future. There were representatives from lots of clubs in Basildon, all hoping to follow suit."

"Bowls clubs just can't afford to pay skilled greenkeepers any more. Laying a grass green usually costs between £50,000 and £60,000, with maintenance costs running at between £7,000 and £15,000 a year; but a synthetic carpet costs between £70,000 and £80,000 to install, lasts around ten years and is very cheap to maintain."

Gary Smith, the bowling partner of Andy Thomson at the Cyphers club, in Kent, supports the novel idea of a compromise between organic and artificial, called Netlon Ad-

vanced Turf. At around £72,000, a Netlon green costs a little more than grass, but the manufacturers claim that clubs will save on maintenance.

Why do bowlers want a true, fast surface? Bowls are biased, and the game is based on the ability to take a circuitous route to the jack. On a fast, swinging green, it takes judgment and natural ability to dispatch the bowl on the right line and at the right speed.

If the grass is long, and the green heavy, the effort to send a bowl the full distance (up to 38 metres), means that the bowl sets off at top speed, and slows down so quickly that the bias does not have time to take effect. The response is simple. Woods have to be hurled, rather than delivered, more or less towards the jack.

The argument used to justify inferior greens is always the same: "You have to adjust to the conditions

— it's the same for both sides". Of course, it is not. When bowls is reduced to hurling woods in a straight line, the skills of talented exponents count for little. It becomes a test of strength and luck.

One of the most damaging innovations in recent years has been the automatic watering system. When clubs invest in one, they need to justify the expense by using it, but, in reality, bowling greens seldom need watering. Green grass looks good, but bowlers will tell you that the best greens are brown and dry.

Perhaps the answer lies in having fewer clubs. In Australia, where bowls is a serious business, clubs typically have four or five greens. That means lots of members and subscriptions pay for an expert staff and equipment to keep the greens in tip-top condition.

The solution is surely for clubs to expand — while some close — and create bigger, more viable bowls centres. The same number of people playing the game could perhaps be served by, say, 25 per cent of the present number of clubs.

CRICKET

England's resolve preserves long unbeaten record

By SIMON WILDE

GUILDFORD (final day of four): England drew with New Zealand

ENGLAND'S women fought a remarkable rearguard action yesterday to escape with a draw in the third and final Test match and share the series 0-0 with New Zealand. The result maintained their unbeaten Test record against these opponents, which dates back to 1934 and spans 22 matches.

At more than one stage during the day, England looked a beaten side, but their final saviours were the ninth-wicket pair of Suzanne Redfern and Clare Taylor, who batted with remarkably few difficulties through the last 27 overs, despite often having seven or eight fielders breathing down their necks.

Having seen the slow bowling of Fryer and Campbell bring rewards, New Zealand may regret the decision to take the new ball four overs after Redfern and Taylor came together. Although the pitch was not offering pronounced turn, spin remained their likeliest route to success and the new ball only disrupted the process.

It was an absorbing day's play, even though England made no attempt to score the 331 runs that they had been left to win by New Zealand's second declaration the previous evening. It was a reasonable target, but, after losing three wickets in the first hour — including those of Britain and Daniels, their main stroke-makers, to Withers — England concentrated on survival.

Metcalfe, who batted nearly four hours for 63, was the central figure in their resistance. Smithies stayed with her for 20 overs and Smit for 27, but, after they had gone, her team's survival seemed to depend on her own. In fact,

her dismissal — to a ball from Campbell that did turn — proved to be the last of the match.

By playing out time so competently, Redfern and Taylor showed just how little the pitch had worn over the four days. Taylor, who has also represented her country at football, finished unbeaten on 38. Redfern on 26. Although she took more wickets, Campbell put them under less pressure than Fryer, the left-arm spinner.

Despite the outcome, New Zealand were undoubtedly the stronger and more adventurous side. They made a clean sweep of the three one-day internationals and their positive approach was testimony to the way that the game is blossoming in their country. In England, the progress made since the World Cup was won in 1993 — ironically with a victory over New Zealand in the final — has been stilted.

There are good reasons for this. In New Zealand, the women's and men's cricket associations amalgamated four years ago and the

women's game has felt the benefits. Financial support has been extensive, with all the expenses for this tour covered and players compensated for loss of earnings.

There is true equality between the sexes — Emily Drumm was named New Zealand cricketer of the year for 1993 — and full co-operation as well, with Martin Crowe, for example, helping in the extensive preparations made by this party.

Needless to say, things are very different in England, not only because the equal opportunities legislation is not as strong. The Women's Cricket Association (WCA) sees the development of a national plan under the proposed English Cricket Board (ECB) as an opportunity for progress, but is aware that amalgamations in other sports — such as squash — have not always worked to the advantage of women.

"We have a lot to gain from a new structure, but only if it is handled carefully," Sharon Bayton, the WCA's chairman, said yesterday. "New Zealand is a younger country with a refreshing approach to women's sport in general. Here, there is a lot of history to overcome and it will not be easy. The first draft constitution of the ECB made no mention of women's cricket whatsoever; now, at least, it recognises its existence. We are asking for a seat on the ECB board, but I am not confident of success."

The Test and County Cricket Board gave the WCA £50,000 to fund the matches against New Zealand and without it they could not have been staged. However, if the women's game is to flourish, that sum needs to be a minimum annual commitment. The players showed the necessary character yesterday; they deserve future support.

SCOREBOARD

NEW ZEALAND: First Innings 352 for 5 dec (K Flavell 97, S Fryer 80, D Hockley 88, E Drumm 62 and 219 for 4 dec (Drumm 112 not out).

ENGLAND: First Innings 271 (J Britton 57, J Fryer 41 for 37).

Second Innings

J Britton c Blythe b Withers	3
C Edwards c Blythe b Brown	31
E Daniels c Campbell b Withers	4
S Metcalfe c Campbell	63
K Smithies c Brown b Drumm	15
J Smit c Campbell	27
K Lang c sub b Fryer	10
D Stock b Campbell	1
S Redfern not out	38
C Taylor not out	26
Extras (b 1, lb 1, w 1)	3
Total (8 wickets)	225

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-18, 2-32, 3-39, 4-65, 5-129, 6-140, 7-157, 8-160.

BOWLING: Withers 18-4-41-8; Campbell 32-7-63-3; Brown 6-3-7-1; Harris 13-4-24-0; Fryer 27-12-41-1; Drumm 12-4-24-1.

Umpires: V Williams and K Taylor.



Gough, the best of a heavily-punished Yorkshire attack, forces Windows into a defensive posture at Harrogate

Lynch leads bargain-hunters

By JACK BAILEY

HARROGATE (Gloucestershire won toss): Gloucestershire beat Yorkshire by 89 runs

EACH year, after the Benson and Hedges Cup final, a small window in the complex county fixture list opens. Into it pops the Costcutter Cup, a 55-over, three-day festival at Harrogate. It was formerly known as the Tilton Trophy, but, ever since the change of name, in 1994, Gloucestershire have lifted the cup and the prize-money. Their performance against Yorkshire yesterday kept their ambitions of a hat-trick not only alive but also glowing bright.

There was a proprietary stamp about the Gloucester-

shire batting as they rattled up 297 for six. They combined this with a purposeful air in the field as Yorkshire's attempts to overtake them were snuffed out with the minimum of fuss.

SCOREBOARD FROM HARROGATE

GLOUCESTERSHIRE		YORKSHIRE	
M G N Woodcock c Withers b Stemp	47	D Gough c Symonds b Lewis	29
T H C Wright c Blythe b Stemp	43	M D Meeson c Symonds b Lewis	11
A J Hancock c Stemp b Silverwood	38	M P Vaughan c Lynch b Lewis	12
M A Lynch run out	35	M G Stevens c Symonds b Alleyne	51
A Symonds not out	5	A McGeath c Williams b Boden	44
M W Alleyne b Gough	5	D Blythe c Lewis b Boden	3
M C Ball c Blythe b Gough	9	C White c Williams b Stevens	3
D J P Boden not out	0	P J Harley not out	16
Extras (b 12, lb 8, w 6, nb 8)	34	C E W Silverwood c Ball b Alleyne	26
Total (8 wickets, 55 overs)	297	R D Stemp c Williams b Lewis	2
FR C J Williams, J Lewis and J M M Avels did not bat.		Extras (b 1, lb 5, w 5)	11
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-97, 2-136, 3-230, 4-251, 5-276, 6-291		Total (48.1 overs)	308
BOWLING: Gough 10-1-36-3; Silverwood 9-2-40-1; Wright 7-4-25-0; Harley 8-1-32-0; Stemp 11-1-46-2; Bevan 10-1-51-0		FALL OF WICKETS: 1-21, 2-40, 3-45, 4-122, 5-146, 6-149, 7-170, 8-198, 9-205	
Man of the match: J Lewis		BOWLING: Lewis 9-1-124-4; Boden 6-1-53-2; Avels 9-4-1-1; Ball 9-0-29-0; Alleyne 9-0-47-3; Symonds 2-0-0-0	
		Umpires: J D Bond and A Clarkson	

Punishing strokeplay from Monte Lynch brought him 68 from 56 balls and the lion's share of a partnership with Tim Hancock which was worth 94 from 13 overs. This was the key to Gloucestershire's large total, although the firm foundation laid by Wright and Windows, and some typically free strokes from Symonds underlined the mastery of bat over ball.

Darren Gough, with two for 36, escaped the general censure accorded around the ground to Yorkshire's bowlers. He also opened the innings, but a bright start was not sustained. Only Bevan and McGrath mastered an attack well led by Jon Lewis, whose opening burst of three for 18 from eight overs set Gloucestershire on the way.

All Yorkshire's wickets fell to catches, some of the highest order. Whoever emerges from the semi-final between Leicestershire and Durham today will have formidable all-round skills to overcome.

Scotland lose as Robinson shines

By DAVID TOWNSEND

SCOTLAND were defeated by the English National Cricket Association (NCA) for the second time in a fortnight yesterday, on the opening day of the inaugural European Cricket championship in Denmark.

Jon Robinson, the former Surrey batsman, who now captains Esher, hammered three sixes in a top score of 73 off 70 balls to help the NCA to 260 for eight from their 50 overs.

Malcolm Roberts, his captain, had kick-started the innings with a typically confident 66, including seven boundaries, and looked set for a century when he was superbly caught by George Salmond, the Scotland captain, diving at extra cover.

Iain Philip and Bruce Parterson, the openers, went cheaply for Scotland, but George Reifer and Mike Smith had 88 on the board after 15 overs and seemed to be experiencing little difficulty on the alien coconut matting surface.

Smith had smashed 41 from only 36 balls when he failed to clear Robinson at mid-on and, with Reifer following soon after for 59, Scotland were to miss the composure of Salmond, who had left the field injured soon after catching Roberts; he did not bat until number eight.

Stewart Laudat, of Oxfordshire, was the best of the NCA bowlers, taking two for 30 from his ten overs as Scotland were dismissed for 214 in the 46th over and beaten by 46 runs.

Ireland, who recently lost to Scotland but beat the NCA to win the triple crown in Wales, began their bid for a double with a convincing 169-run win over Italy at the Copenhagen Ball Club. Ireland will face a tougher test today when they tackle Denmark, who easily beat Gibraltar by 288 runs.

SCORES: Brandyby: England NCA 260-8 (J Robinson 73, M Roberts 66, J Bevan 4-34), Scotland 214 (G Reifer 57, J Parterson 52, D Johnson 4-66), Gibraltar 71 (S Brandyby 5-16). Denmark won by 288 runs; Copenhagen Ball Club: Ireland 255-6, Italy 86; Iceland won by 169 runs.

TENNIS

Wimbledon clear for Egypt tie

CHRIS GORRINGE, the chief executive of Wimbledon, said yesterday that he had not ruled out the possibility of Great Britain playing their Davis Cup tie against Egypt on the No 1 Court at Wimbledon in September.

Britain must beat Egypt in their group two tie of the Euro-Africa zone, to be held from September 20 to 22, to gain promotion to group one. David Lloyd, the team captain, and Tim Henman, the No 1 player, who has climbed one place in the world rankings to 38 — his highest position, are keen to hold the match at the All England Club.

The No 1 Court, which has 6,500 seats, is soon to be demolished to make way for a new players' and media centre, but Gorrings said that, if necessary, the bulldozers could wait.

"It is not out of the question for the tie to be held on the No 1 Court," he said, "but we would have to consider it carefully and we would need a formal request from the Lawn Tennis Association."

SCHOOLS SPORT: GIFTED QUARTET DETERMINED TO TURN MATCH DAYS INTO A FAMILY AFFAIR

Cricketing twins double up for assault on record books

By GRAEME HOLLINSHEAD

WHEN Cleveland schools under-13 cricket squad gets together for nets, Gordon Lake, the manager, can be excused a double-take — or two. He has two sets of twins from the same family vying for places in the county team — something never before recorded in the annals of the English Schools Cricket Association.

The schoolboy cricketers who are rarely short of a brother to practice with are Alex Roberts, 13, an all-rounder, and his twin, Lee, an all-rounder, and his twin, Lee, both eight pupils at King's Manor School, Middlesbrough, and year seven pupils, Brett and Jay, 14 months their junior.

Alex played last year and was the team's top scorer with 256 runs at an average of 32. He is on course to repeat that feat this year, opening with six against The Wirral but then recording his maiden county half-century in the one-wicket defeat against Durham. He followed that with 53 against Yorkshire and hit his first century, scoring 112 in a four-

wicket defeat against Lancashire.

"Alex is a true all-rounder and he is our leading wicket-taker as well as run-maker," Lake, a retired Cleveland teacher, said. "He is physically stronger than his twin and the other brothers, who are of course a year younger."

Lee, a leg and off spin bowler, and Brett, who bowls medium pace, have also made it into the county side, but Jay has only recently resumed playing after a lengthy illness.

"Lee and Brett have not had any real success as yet although Lee has bowled well on two or three occasions without luck. The younger lad needs to become a bit stronger to bowl quick at this level," Lake said.

According to Len Almond, director of the Exercise and Health Research Group at Loughborough University, greater athletic potential among twins is often shown by the first-born, or heavier child at birth.

The boys' father, Tony Roberts, who coaches all four

brothers for Middlesbrough Cricket Club's under-13s, said Alex and Brett — the two heaviest at birth — were more dominant than their respective twins up to the age of three, another factor which can indicate sporting prowess.

Susan Roberts said that from the age of two, her sons would be "glued to the television watching any activity with a ball", and the brothers had an early introduction to the joys of cricket. "They came to watch me at Middlesbrough as soon as they could crawl," Tony Roberts said. "They played on the spare ground at the club during matches from a very early age and all of them were introduced to the junior cricket teams at nine years old."

Tony still plays for the Middlesbrough club's third XI, but his place could be in jeopardy from Alex after the pair batted together for the first time against Billingham last month. Dad was bowled for one but Alex showed him the way with a handsome 19.



Talented twins: the Roberts brothers (bottom row), Lee, left, and Alex, 13, and (top) Jay, left, and Brett, 12

SQUASH

Russell cuts a dash to upset big-hitter

FROM COLIN MCQUILLAN IN CAIRO

THE improvement in the world junior game was clearly illustrated here yesterday. In the first session of the last 32 of the world junior men's championship, Rene Bartel, of Germany, narrowly removed the much-fancied Shamsul Islam Khan, of Pakistan, while John Russell, of England, proved far too adept for Paul Peters, a big-hitting Australian.

Bartel took an early lead against his stylish opponent and then weathered the counter-attack, in which he survived a long fifth game, to win 9-7, 9-5, 0-9, 7-9, 9-7 in 74 minutes. His reward is a tilt in the round of 16 at Ahmed Faizy, of Egypt, the top seed who defeated Tim Vall, of England, 9-4, 9-2, 9-3 in 32 minutes.

Russell, a solidly-built 16-year-old from New Eltham, in south London, looked a completely different player from the head-scarved, casual-looking performer of early rounds. "He is a player who tends to perform as well as he has to," David Pearson, the new England national coach,

said. "We had a pretty serious talk about attitude last night, although I would not like to say that it had much to do with John's approach today. He knows without telling when the squash has to be professionally applied."

However, no such plaudits are likely to have come the way of the strapping Peters from Greg Middleton, his team manager. Against Indian and Italian opposition in earlier rounds, he proved impetuous, but Russell allowed him none of the airy, loose balls that came in those matches; tight, low drives down both walls revealed an unsuspected limit of reach and Peters succumbed 9-1, 9-0, 9-6.

With a strong belief in eye protection from goggles and preference for piratical head-scarves, Russell, this time, delivered a far more conservative impression with a normal headband; and found a precise rhythm which he jokingly suggested was the product of the lighter head-cover.

GOLF: BRITON RIDES LUCK TO QUALIFY FOR OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP AS PEDIGREE PROVES NO GUARANTEE OF SUCCESS

Eales takes chance to challenge on home territory

By MEL WEBB

ON THE first day of the last Open Championship to be held at Royal Lytham and St Annes, Paul Eales was beavering away in the professional's shop, selling furiously and manning the cash register. On Thursday, his role will be less marginalised; this year, he will be a player, not a shop assistant. What a difference in one man's life — and all in less than a decade.

In 1988, Eales was an assistant under Eddie Birch, the head professional at Lytham, a future on the PGA European Tour an ambition that was romantic and yet rooted in the realms of the improbable. Today, the dream has been distilled into a reality.

Eales, 32, played yesterday at the tough and unforgiving Fairhaven course and a 69 gave him a total of 140, eight under par, which was enough to make him joint-seventh qualifier on the course.

He was given the honour of a local man's gallery, but said that he was embarrassed not to have played better for them. "I was playing so badly out there," he said bluntly.

One of the acknowledged secrets of playing successful golf hinges upon the ability to score well when performing badly. On the evidence of this round, Eales seemed to have that little trick cracked, with drums beating and flags flying.

By its very nature, low scoring on links layouts also sometimes needs a modicum of luck, but although Eales was the beneficiary of one stroke of outrageous good fortune, it had less to do with seaside golf and more with the uncanny ability to pick a target entirely by accident and hit it.

In this case, the target was an unsuspecting spectator, one of the many following their home-town hero, into whom an errant Eales tee shot at the short 17th clattered with some force.

The upshot was that the ball rebounded onto the green and Eales, more than a little shame-faced, trundled in a putt from 27 feet for an unlikely birdie. At this point, he was on something of a roll, having picked up shots at the previous three holes. He also birdied the last and it was



Eales: late developer

enough to put him into his first Lytham Open.

It was not over thus. Eales's last trip to Fairhaven was in 1988 and he failed to set foot on his home course in anger. He did manage to do so in peace, however, because he was asked on the Friday night of the Championship to play as a marker at the tail of the field with Gary Burton, a club professional.

"I was doing pretty well, actually," he said. "I was level par for 16 holes when play was

called off for the day because of rain and, when the tournament resumed on the Saturday, the players were sent out in three-balls, so that was a chance gone.

Eales has been one of the most promising additions to the ranks of PGA European Tour professionals in recent years. A former Lancashire county player at boys' and senior level, he teed off several years in the Eighties. He attended the tour qualifying school, that shredder of hopes and destroyer of morale, four times without success and ultimately got his place on the tour by finishing third in the Challenge Tour order of merit in 1992.

He is a thoughtful, serious chap; the impression which one is left with is that he does little without careful consideration. Slim, neat and ordered, he has opinions and expresses them fluently.

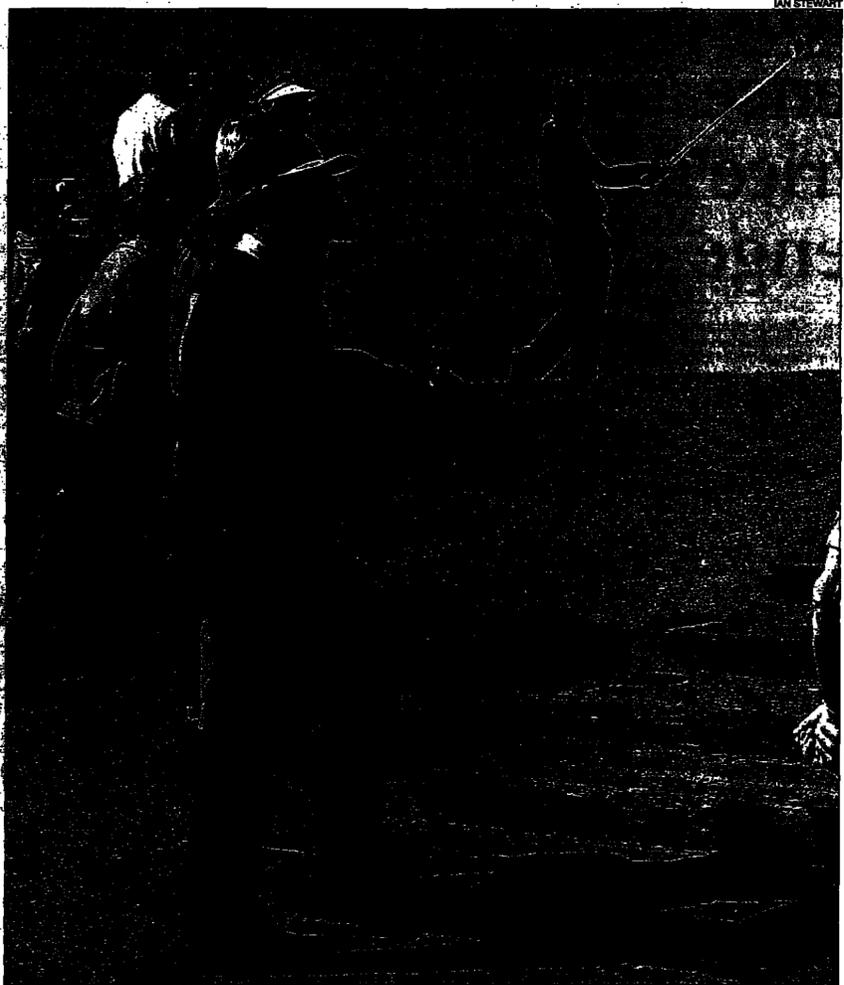
The winner of the Extreme-dura Open in 1994, he is happy to admit that he was a late developer. "There was a time when I thought I was never going to make it, but the support of Eddie and everybody at Royal Lytham convinced me to keep on trying," he said. "Without their encouragement, I don't think I would have made it to the European Tour."

That victory on the border country between Spain and Portugal two years ago remains the highlight of his career. One of his frequently-stated career aims is to win the Open Championship on his own course. Now, for the first time in his life, he has the chance to do it.

□ Bernhard Langer arrived for the Open Championship yesterday — but his clubs were still in Germany. "They didn't put them on the plane at Munich. It's a shame. It's a nice day to play. The 35-year-old German said: He wanted that he expected the clubs to arrive last night.

The double Masters champion, who spent last week at his home in Anhausen, has never won the Open, but was second or third four times from 1981 to 1986 and third again in 1993, when Greg Norman played his great final round of 64 to win at Royal St George's.

The world No 1 said the fact he could not play today would not seriously upset his preparation. "It's a bit annoying, but there are still two days to practise," he said. "If that's the worst hiccup this week, it won't be too bad."



Jack Nicklaus watches with the crowd as his son, Gary, drives during his failed attempt to qualify for the Open yesterday

Mysterious tip works for Mason

By PATRICIA DAVIES

PETER BAKER, the former Ryder Cup player, had a word for it — a four letter word — after a final qualifying round of 74, two over par, at St Annes Old Links blew him out of the Open Championship yesterday. So much for the optimism engendered by an opening 68.

Gary Nicklaus, son of Jack, more used to the indignities of qualifying, was more stoical after a round of 73 that featured an eagle, birdie finish at the same course, but a total of 141 was still too much. "He dug himself a hole and couldn't get out of it," was his father's summation, referring to a start that included two bogeys and a double bogey in the first four holes.

Nicklaus senior and his wife Barbara flew in from Detroit early in the morning and watched their son suffer in the Lancashire sun. The famous

fan did not bother Gary — "I'd rather he watched than didn't" — but the action that mattered was elsewhere.

Richard Boxall, using a psychological tip from Carl Mason, returned a second successive 65 to be king of St Annes. It's the second year in a row that the good-looking man from Surrey has started before the main event — he led the qualifiers at Scotsraig before missing the cut at St Andrews.

David Feherty wielded a long putter to good effect at Formby and shared top billing on 140, four under par, with Tim Herron, the roly-poly young American who won the Honda Classic in March. Three shots behind was Scotsman Gordon Law, disqualified last year after signing a card with the wrong name on it, but he made no mistake this time. "I checked my card 10 times," he said.

Justin Leonard, the talented Texan, led the way at Fairhaven, alongside England's Ricky Willison. Both shot 65, nine under par, for matching totals of 134. Leonard set a course record of 64, ten under par. For Willison, the highlight was a hole-in-one with a two-iron at the 226-yard 10th.

However, the essence of qualifying is suffering and there was plenty on offer. On Saturday, at Carnoustie, Silvio Grappasonni and Rus-

sell Claydon missed out on an Open exemption in a play-off, and both failed yesterday. Claydon had a lacklustre 76 at St Annes, while the Italian suffered in another play-off, beaten by Tony Johnstone at the third extra hole at Southport and Ainsdale.

Drechsler forced to miss Games

HEIKE DRECHSLER, the Olympic long jump champion, of Germany, will miss the Atlanta Games through injury, she announced yesterday. Drechsler, 31, the most consistent seven-metre jumper in the world, suffered an injury to a tendon at the back of a knee during training in mid-May and she said it has not responded to treatment.

Drechsler said the injury meant she was able to compete at only 60 per cent of her capacity and she did not want to risk a further injury. Her withdrawal leaves Jackie Joyner-Kersey, of the United States, and British-born Italian Fiona May, the world champion, as favourites for the gold medal, along with the Russian veteran, Inessa Kravets.

Pienaar fit

Rugby union: South Africa, the World Cup holders, named an unchanged side yesterday for Saturday's Tri-Nation international against New Zealand in Wellington, keeping faith with the players who surrendered a two-year unbeaten run against Australia last weekend. The Springboks received a boost before their first meeting with the All Blacks since last year's World Cup final when an arm injury to captain and flanker Francois Pienaar proved not to be a fracture.

Bruguera wins

Tennis: Sergi Bruguera set up a rematch of the 1994 French Open final when he clinched a second-round place yesterday at the ATP tournament in Stuttgart. The 24-year-old Spaniard, who has slipped to 53rd in the world after a poor run of results in 1996, defeated 67th-ranked German Carl Uwe Steeb 7-6, 6-4 in the opening round of the clay-court event. Bruguera, twice the French Open champion but now struggling to overcome a long-term foot injury, next plays his compatriot Alberto Berasategui, the loser at Roland Garros when the pair played for the grand slam title two years ago.

Table with golf scores for various courses like Fairhaven, Formby, Southport and Ainsdale, etc.

MOTOR RACING: VILLENEUVE NOT UNDER ORDERS TO GIVE WAY TO WILLIAMS TEAM-MATE

Early exit leaves Hill facing fight to finish

By OLIVER HOLT

WILLIAMS have been down this particular road before. They know its contours and its twists and turns. In 1986, they lost a championship because they indulged the duelling spirits of Nigel Mansell and Nelson Piquet and now they are facing up to the prospect of another in-house fight to the finish. This time, though, the struggle is inspiring only eager anticipation.

When Jacques Villeneuve won the British Grand Prix at Silverstone on Sunday, he cut Damon Hill's lead in the race for the drivers' title to 15 points. Combined with Hill's forced early exit because of a mechanical problem, a championship that had looked a formality has been transformed into a real contest.

So dominant are the Williams-Renaults and so parous have the recent performances of Ferrari been that there is no one else who could deprive Hill or Villeneuve of the title even if they were to take points off each other on a regular basis. There are six races to go and everything to play for. Any thoughts of team orders have been banished.

"Neither driver has anything in their contract saying that they have to give way to the other driver or that the other driver will give way to them," Patrick Head, the Williams technical director, said yesterday. "The only time we might have applied team orders in the past was if one driver was in a position to win the championship and the other was not. That is not the case here."

"My opinion is that Damon still has the upper hand because of his points lead and the fact that he knows the remaining circuits. In all natural terms, you would expect him to reassert his position but the things you can never cater for in motor racing are chance and reliability."

Head, a refreshingly honest and blunt man in a sport so often muddled by Machiavellianism, has been irritated by recent speculation that Williams were casting round for a replacement for Villeneuve because they had been disappointed with his performances since he joined the team from IndyCar racing at the start of last season. Yesterday, he stressed the young Canadian had a two-year contract and that Williams were more than eager to honour it.

"People were saying we might be disappointed, that we were aiming to get rid of him. But for someone coming in in their first year, particularly someone so young and inexperienced, he has done a very good job. The interesting thing is whether this is the end or will he keep improving. If he was only doing as well as this in a year's time, then one might be disappointed but so far he has been excellent."

Head, who, along with the Williams aerodynamicist, Adrian Newey, deserves much of the credit for the team's dominance this season, has also helped Villeneuve to modify his mood since his move across the Atlantic and, after a frank discussion at Silverstone last month ago, has accepted some of the Canadian's suggestions for

improving the working of the team.

"There were certain aspects of what he was doing with the set-up of his car that we did not feel were beneficial," Head said. "We thought a slightly unhealthy situation was arising with him wanting to go down one road and us wanting him to go down another. It was developing into a stand-off."

"We had a talk with him and suggested he should use the skills and the facilities within the team and he told us a few of the things he thought could work better. It was not that everything was bad up to then and everything was brilliant afterwards but it has helped. Things are looking good for all of us at the moment but they can change very quickly."

FOOTBALL

Nelson signs for Villa

FERNANDO NELSON finally signed a four-year deal with Aston Villa yesterday to become Brian Little's first summer signing. The manager then hinted that the Portugal international, bought from Sporting Lisbon for £1.5 million, could be the first of several new arrivals before the start of the new season. "If the right player comes along who I feel can improve the squad, then I would be interested," Little said.

Fernando Couto, another Portugal international, is now said to be attracting interest from Middlesbrough. Parma are ready to sell the defender valued at £4 million, although Bryan Robson has already

spent £11 million in bringing Emerson from Brazil and Fabrizio Ravenelli from Italy. Trevor Francis, manager of Birmingham City, has renewed his partnership with Bob Latchford, another former of St Andrews favourite, who has been made youth development officer.

Liverpool's plans to play Linfield and Dundalk early next month are in doubt because of the continuing unrest in Northern Ireland. Peter Robinson, the Liverpool chief executive, said: "This is something we will want to check out. Safety is of paramount importance and we should be taking soundings from our friends in the province."

Table with football fixtures for Saturday, July 20, including Victoria, South Australia, West Australia, Tasmania, and New South Wales leagues.

Table with cricket fixtures for AKA Equity & Law League, North-Hampton, EBBWASTON, Lancashire, HARRIGATE, Second XI Championship, and other sports.

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SPORT

TUESDAY JULY 16 1996

BOWLS 40
COUNTIES PREPARE TO PUT TURF OUT TO GRASS

Popular American forced out of this year's Open Championship

Watson's run ended by injury

BY JOHN HOPKINS
GOLF CORRESPONDENT

THE 125th Open, which starts at Royal Lytham and St Annes on Thursday, was dealt a blow yesterday afternoon when Tom Watson withdrew from it because of an injured shoulder.

Watson, who has been playing social golf in Ireland and Scotland prior to the Open, as has been his wont for some years now, telephoned Michael Bonallack, the secretary of the Royal and Ancient Golf Club, with the news that he was unable to play and was flying home to the United States for immediate treatment. He then telephoned Bruce Edwards, his caddy, from somewhere in the Highlands, to tell him that his services would not be required.

Watson has been one of the greatest supporters of the Open, as well as one of its most successful competitors with five victories. He won the first he entered — at Carnoustie in 1975 — and had not missed one since. The last major championship he did not compete in was the 1974 Open, a run of 87 consecutive major championships.

The injury occurred before Watson left the United States, but it did not stop him playing at Ballyunion, where he has done some alterations to several holes on the Old course, for two days last week. He and Stan Thirk, his coach, had landed at the Co Kerry airport in a private jet from the US.

The plan was to go to Northern Ireland but upon being apprised of the political situation there, the pilot declined to fly north. "We can stay here for a week," Watson said, his face lighting up.

In Ireland, Watson was asked why no American professional had won at Lytham. "Just timing," he replied, holding up his hands. He said he fully expected one to win this year, saying there were 39 due to compete. He particularly singled out Mark Brooks and Mark O'Meara, both of whom



Els, left, and Norman are interested spectators as Daly, the Open champion, checks the condition of his driver during practice yesterday

really hurting if he hasn't even made it here," Edwards said. "As well as he's been playing he would have had a great chance." Edwards will now caddy for Ian Baker-Finch, who has made money in only one of his past 41 tournaments. "Hopefully, together we can break that string," Edwards said. "If Finch wasn't such a decent guy I wouldn't caddy for him."

The sun shone benevolently yesterday and only the gentlest of north-westerly winds was blowing, luring one player after another out on the links almost as soon as they arrived in this corner of Lancashire.

Greg Norman and John Daly, the defending champion, played a match against Ernie Els and Michael Campbell, the young pretenders from the southern hemisphere. Norman and Daly, though having to pay out \$200 on the front nine, won \$700 on the back nine to finish \$500 to the good. It was Norman's first visit to Lytham since 1979. He missed the 1988 event because he had injured a wrist in the US Open a month previously.

"I think this is a great driver's course," Norman, who had flown in after a holiday in the south of France and playing a Shell Wonderful World of Golf match against Couples at Skibo Castle, said. "You've got to thread the eye of a needle here. There is a real premium in keeping it on the fairway. In that regard it's like Royal St George's." Daly looked down the 18th fairway and remarked that it had more bunkers than he had ex-wives.

The by now traditional withdrawal of Scott Hoch took place right on schedule. The man who feels he was ambushed by aggressive British journalists and shabbily treated prior to the 1990 Open at St Andrews, won the Michelob championship in Virginia on Sunday night and then confirmed he was not intending to travel to Lytham.

"I realise it's a major — one of the biggest if not the biggest," Hoch said. "But I checked with people whose opinions I value and they said I wouldn't like Lytham anyway."

Earlier he had said: "The main thing I dislike when you go from over here is that you go from nice weather conditions to cold, windy and rainy weather. I don't care for that." His remarks would have more validity if it were not for the fact that next week he is due to compete in the Dutch Open — no doubt for a hefty appearance fee.

Lorne Duncan, a caddy, would have liked Hoch to have competed because he might have been able to carry his bag. Duncan, an engaging Canadian, made a name for himself in a recent Open by carrying for Craig Stadler while wearing plus fours and a bow tie. He was loitering in the car park yesterday, roasting, in caddies' jargon — hoping to find a player in need of his services.

He saw Norman practising his putting, approached him and, tongue in cheek, asked if he needed a caddy. Norman laughed. "That's good," Duncan said. "At least I'm providing some entertainment."

Then Stadler drove into the car park, one of the last players to arrive. But he did not need a caddy either.

It will be odd to watch an Open without Watson because he has played such an important role in so many. Even lately, as his putting has declined and thus his chances of winning have lengthened, his popularity has increased, if anything. When Severiano Ballesteros heard the news, he caught the general mood.

English rugby seeks way in from the cold

BY DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

OFFICERS of the beleaguered Rugby Football Union (RFU) were locked in talks yesterday in an effort to break the deadlock that exists between them and the other three home unions. Doors remain open for discussion, but representatives of Scotland, Wales and Ireland have emphasised that the initiative now rests firmly with England.

Will Carling, the former England captain, has called for a return to the negotiating table over the controversial broadcasting deal struck independently of the Celtic unions by the RFU with BSkyB, the satellite television company which is 40 per cent owned by News International, owners of The Times. That would involve a climbdown by a union which is now a house divided.

The RFU is in no position to offer leadership to the game in England, never mind the wider boundaries of Europe and the northern hemisphere. To that extent the logic of John Burgess, the former RFU president who launched a bitter diatribe against the union's officials on Friday, cannot be faulted. What sort of a governing body is it that requires an independently-chaired panel to examine the breakdown in relationships between its own officers and staff?

Scotland, Wales and Ireland, for their part, are already preparing for the four nations' home-and-away tournament with which they will replace the existing five nations' championship in January should no way be found out of the present impasse. "If we are to re-schedule fixtures and accommodate them within our own domestic calendars, work must start now," Alan Hosie, Scotland's representative on the five nations' committee, said.

"International rugby can continue without England and, until such time as the RFU is prepared to negotiate all matters relating to the five nations' championship through the five nations' committee, we must make our alternative plans accordingly." The other home unions have stressed that, if the RFU resorts to the small print in the existing BBC broadcasting contract, which does not end until next April, it will fail. "Any talk by England of legal action is silly," Vernon Pugh, the chairman of the

Welsh Rugby Union and himself a QC, said. "We have discussed the four nations' tournament with the BBC and they have given us assurances that they have no difficulty with it at all."

"The BBC bought a series of international matches, not a specific championship. They are happy and their conduct throughout all this has been entirely honourable."

In fact, though BBC executives were thin on the ground yesterday — waiting with some impatience for rugby union to sort itself out — it may suit them to hold their fire. The RFU has emphasised all along (indeed, it is a fundamental plank in its argument) that it has allowed for a terrestrial partner in its negotiations; if none comes forward, its contract must be at risk.

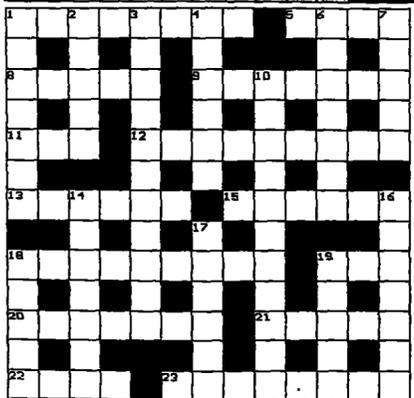
At least the BBC knows it will have some rugby to stage next season, and possibly in subsequent seasons, if the home unions remain at arm's length from England: "It's desperate if England are not there but it could turn out to be a cracking tournament rugby-wise, with the home-and-away element encouraging greater risks," Pugh, whose team, along with Scotland, played the brightest rugby of last season's championship, said. "It might be the beginning of the game turning a corner in the north."

Already there has been concern from South Africa over next summer's tour by the British Isles and Lions officials have been at pains to emphasise no threat to that tour exists. Their concern is to select individual players to tour and, as history shows, those players may not always have played international rugby during the preceding season.

Carling entered the fray yesterday when he said: "I don't believe English rugby can survive without the five nations. Players will feel tremendous frustration ... if international rugby is taken away, or placed in doubt, you're going to get very unhappy players who I don't think will just sit and accept the situation."

Players whose national contracts, Carling might have added, may all of a sudden be worth far less than might have been expected.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 835

ACROSS

- 1 First-class, superb (3-5)
5 Wife/sister of Osiris (4)
8 Mishandle; catcalls (5)
9 Fresh (egg) (3-4)
11 Charge for eg entrance (3)
12 School lesson list (9)
13 Sculptor; a knife, a chair (6)
15 Tricked, duped (6)
18 Clumsy, tactless (9)
19 Our air force (1,1,1)
20 Car (frame) (7)
21 Bring into line (5)
22 Detest (4)
23 Anthony —, Barset author (5)

DOWN

- 1 Moving vehicles; trade (7)
2 Strait-faced person (5)
3 More than expected (charge) (4,3,4)
4 Film theatre (6)
6 Orator's portable platform (7)
7 Move furtively (5)
10 Unerringly (7,4)
14 Dependent (7)
16 Resistance to attack (7)
17 Useful cat (6)
18 Bethlehem-as-birthplace prophet (5)
19 Proverbially thick-skinned beast (5)

SOLUTION TO NO 834

ACROSS: 1 Caged 4 Interim 8 Peaceable 9 Vim 10 Tie 11 Imbalance 12 Cadet 13 Chary 16 Sarcasm 18 Mug 20 Car 21 Overtrow 22 Starlet 23 Hurr
DOWN: 1 Cop it 2 Go-ahead 3 Dyed-in-the-wool 4 Imbibe 5 The Black Watch 6 Riven 7 Mummery 12 Customs 14 Admiral 15 Urgent 17 Aoria 19 Gaffer

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Faldo studies video evidence after having his swing filmed by Leadbetter, his coach

United to conclude Poborski deal

BY DAVID MADDOCK

KAREL POBORSKI, the Czech Republic midfielder player who made such an impact during the European championship, should today become a Manchester United player, despite a reported resurgence of interest from Liverpool. The Slavia Prague player held talks with Maurice Watkins, United's legal director, over the weekend and agreed in principle to sign for the Premiership champions. The club's offer of £3.6 million was discussed yesterday by the Slavia board, and agreement is expected to be reached this morning.

Complications set in as the day unfolded, however, when reports from Prague suggested that Liverpool had emerged as late rivals for the signature of the player — dubbed the Express Train — who became one of the characters of Euro 96.

Liverpool are more interested in pursuing Poborski's international teammate, Patrick Berger, who is playing in Germany with Borussia Dortmund. The Anfield club has already had one offer of £2.5 million rejected, but their interest has intensified after an injury to Mark Kennedy, the left winger.

The Republic of Ireland international could miss the start of the season with Achilles tendon trouble, and that leaves Liverpool short on the left side with Rob Jones and Steve Harkness both long-term casualties. An improved offer for Berger could follow later this week.

The dispute between the Football League and the Professional Footballers' Association (PFA) took another turn yesterday after Gordon Taylor, the PFA chief executive, warned of action to recover television money he claims is owed in back payments.

The two bodies are in dispute over the league's seasonal payment to the players' union. The union claims that it has an agreement whereby it should be paid ten per cent of television income. The League has refused to increase last season's payment of £560,000, despite the new £25 million deal struck with BSkyB, which is 40 per cent owned by News International, parent company of The Times. Taylor said that the League had failed to honour its 10 per cent agreement in recent years, and that action would be taken to recover the money.

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Al Gore after talks with Viktor Chernomyrdin, who stood in for the absent Boris Yeltsin in Moscow yesterday

Yeltsin fails to meet Gore as health fears revive

FROM THOMAS DE WAAL IN MOSCOW

IN A BIZARRE lapse of protocol, Al Gore, the American Vice-President, arrived at the Kremlin yesterday for a meeting with President Yeltsin only to be told that he had gone on holiday.

Both sides tried rather lamely to brush off the embarrassing incident, which intensified fears about Mr Yeltsin's health and sent shivers through stock markets. Viktor Chernomyrdin, the Prime Minister, who held talks with Mr Gore instead, said that Mr Yeltsin was "resting".

A stony-faced Mr Gore, the first senior foreign guest in Moscow since Mr Yeltsin was re-elected for a new term, admitted that he had learnt the meeting had been cancelled only shortly before it was due to take place. He had only a few minutes' advantage over a large group of reporters, who had gathered to cover

the non-existent encounter. The Kremlin said the meeting with the President had been rescheduled to today and would be held in a sanatorium at Barvikha, outside Moscow.

At the same time Mr Yeltsin showed that he was politically vigorous, if not in the best of health, with a decree that gave a new liberal look to the Kremlin. He sacked the hardliner Nikolai Yegorov as his chief of staff and replaced him with Anatoli Chubais.

Kremlin aides were quick to say that Mr Yeltsin was not ill. "The President is tired," said Sergei Medvedev, the presidential spokesman. "He is really tired. He needs good and complete rest."

Mr Medvedev said Mr Yeltsin would be resting for two weeks at Barvikha, but was not in need of medical treatment. The President recuperated at Barvikha, a tradi-

tional Politburo rest home, after suffering a mild heart attack last October.

After adopting a very high profile during the election campaign, Mr Yeltsin virtually dropped out of public view after the first round of voting on June 16. He voted at Barvikha in the second round on July 3 and has been seen only in carefully controlled settings since then. In his last television appearance last Friday when he spoke at a meeting of the FSB, successor to the KGB, he looked stiff and tired but not noticeably ill.

Mr Yeltsin has run up a long list of mysterious episodes and cancelled appearances over the past four years. His staff routinely say that there is nothing wrong with his health besides a little heart trouble. But he is assumed to have a drinking problem and also said to have problems

with his liver and kidneys. Mr Medvedev said Mr Yeltsin had chosen to rest at Barvikha, instead of the Black Sea resort of Sochi, so as to be able to work on reshuffling the Government and the Kremlin apparatus.

Mr Yeltsin's first key appointment since the election will gladden the West and the Russian "democrats". He rewarded the reformist team who formed the nucleus of his re-election campaign by making Mr Chubais, a staunch liberal, the head of his administration.

Mr Chubais, who was sacked from the Government last January, has been given ten days to put forward plans for overhauling the Kremlin apparatus and has every opportunity to shape it in his own image.

The appointment is another heavy blow for the Kremlin hardliners, whose stock has plummeted since the election. Nikolai Yegorov, the outgoing chief of staff, was one of the men held most responsible for launching the war in Chechnya and a close ally of Aleksandr Korzhakov, Mr Yeltsin's security chief until he was dismissed.

A former collective farm boss, Mr Yegorov's authoritarian style went down very badly in the Kremlin. Last week a member of the administration said privately that, if Mr Yegorov stayed, all the best professionals and analysts in the administration would leave.

Mr Yeltsin is a master of the divide-and-rule school of politics and Mr Chubais will be a strong counterweight to Aleksandr Lebed, the new powerful Secretary of the Security Council.

Cliff Riga, Andris Skole, the Latvian Prime Minister, said yesterday that he was reshuffling his Cabinet to streamline government, cut spending and increase efficiency. His aides insisted the changes would not destabilise the Baltic state's six-party Government of unlikely partners, who include right-wing nationalists and former Communists. (Reuters)

Great survivor takes control of the Kremlin machinery

BY THOMAS DE WAAL

ONLY six months ago, when Anatoli Chubais was cast out of government, it seemed the economic reformer was heading for a future in the burgeoning Russian private sector that would keep him from high office for years.

His return at the age of 41 to one of the half-dozen most powerful jobs in Moscow is a dramatic comeback and must now make him a leading contender to get the job of Prime Minister before President Yeltsin's new four-year term expires. The job of running the Kremlin apparatus, a new departure for a career economist, gives him a day-to-day control of the whole mini-government that is the presidential administration.

Mr Chubais earned this sudden rehabilitation by being one of the main strategists of Mr Yeltsin's election victory. He gathered a team of professionals who lifted the

MAN IN THE NEWS



Chubais: back in power

President from single-figure poll ratings in February to a comfortable victory in July.

In performing that feat, Mr Chubais displayed all the characteristics which have made him the bugbear of the Communist-nationalist opposition for the past four years: a sharp intelligence, an arro-

gant conviction in himself and a fighting streak.

Tall, red-headed and fluent in English, Mr Chubais comes from a group of free-thinking Leningrad economists who met informally in the Soviet era. In late 1991, he was one of a group called in by the new acting Prime Minister, Yegor Gaidar, to form a new government. Mr Chubais oversaw what was probably the most ambitious privatisation project in history.

In December 1994, he was made First Deputy Prime Minister in charge of the economy and his efforts at achieving macroeconomic stabilisation won him applause. When he took the job, inflation was at 16 per cent a month. Eight months later it had dropped to 5 per cent.

By managing to remain in his job until January 1996, Mr Chubais proved himself to be the most tenacious of the 1992 class of reformers and the most politically astute.

Pay claim makes enemies at Friends

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN DENVER

CAST members of *Friends*, the American television sitcom, have threatened to go on strike.

In an unusual bout of militancy, the show's glamorous stars, all of them highly bankable, are behaving in anything but an amicable manner towards their production bosses. They have allegedly refused to report for work at Warner Bros Television unless their basic pay is increased to a tidy \$100,000 (£64,000) each per episode of the top-rated show. Some 20 episodes are made a year.

The sitcom has been a great success since it opened two years ago and the previously unknown stars have become celebrities, both at home and in the many foreign countries where *Friends* amuses audiences with its mildly ironic take on six urbane twentysomethings.

Courtney Cox, Jennifer Aniston, Matthew Perry, David Schwimmer, Lisa Kudrow and Matt LeBlanc are this year's musketeers of show-business. Their love lives are chronicled in the tabloid press. Miss Aniston's haircut has set a trend (she also posed naked with a snake for



A scene from an episode of *Friends*: the smiles belie the enmity between the cast and the producers

a magazine cover), and the sextet have bagged advertising deals and endorsements.

Now they want more. At the start of the series, the actors were paid \$25,000 each per episode. That was increased, but they are not satisfied. They are said to be demanding a share of the \$4 million profit that Warner and the show's distributor, NBC, makes on each show. That profit will probably increase with time.

In line with their screen characters, the *Friends* cast is underfoot to be following the first rule of effective industrial action: solidarity. Film producers can normally count on the natural

insecurity of actors to lead to on-set rivalries which can then be capitalised on to weaken cast's negotiating positions. But the *Friends* crowd are currently inseparable.

Warner may be reflecting that, in creating the success of *Friends*, it has created a monster. Such opinions were being voiced earlier this year when publicity for the show got out of hand. Every magazine, newspaper and television chat show, it seemed, featured an interview with a self-satisfied *Friends* star. Producers worried that the show would suffer from overkill.

Apparently formulaic, the sitcom's fine ensemble acting

and sharp script have attracted a sizeable British audience. More than four million British viewers currently tune into the new series on Channel 4, a remarkable figure for a cult comedy and twice the ratings for the first series.

The show's success has also attracted big-name guest stars, including British singer Chrissie Hynde, Tom Selleck, Julia Roberts and Jean Claude Van Damme.

Actors George Clooney and Noah Wyle, heart-throbs from the equally successful American series *ER*, appeared in one episode as doctors.

The cast of *Friends* will know that the longer they refuse to work, the greater the pressure on the producers, who must deliver shows in time for network slots and syndication demands. Legally, the players may be in a weak position.

It is normal for television series to ask stars to sign a standard five-year deal which restricts the freedom of actors to work elsewhere and limits the amount of power to negotiate pay rises. If the *Friends* cast are on such a contract, they may be boxed in until 1999, and by that time the show may have lost its freshness.

Handwritten note: "J.P. 11/10/96"

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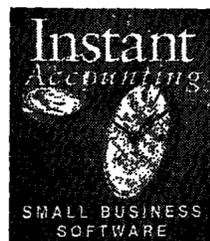
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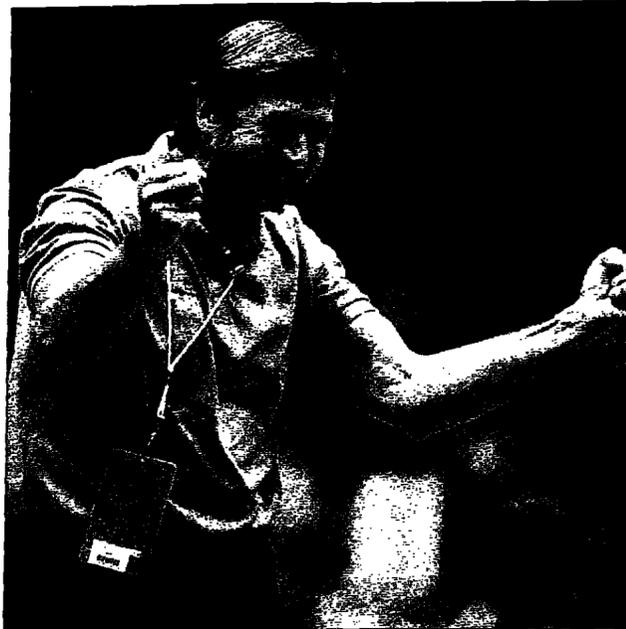
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Bullied and starved to be winners



Bela Karolyi left Ceausescu's Romania to take up coaching gymnastics in America

The dream of Olympic glory lures many girls to become gymnasts. A new book from America, however, suggests that such hopefuls endure immense physical and mental pressure with little chance of success. Quentin Letts reports

When the Olympic Games begin on Friday, the highlight for many television viewers for the following fortnight will be the women's gymnastics. Since the days of Olga Korbut and Nadia Comaneci, female gymnasts have been the darlings of the summer games, their valiant little smiles and flying pigtails winning hearts across the world.

"Ah, isn't she a doll?" we will murmur over cups of cocoa before the broadcast returns to an impressed Desmond Lynam in the studio. Even when the gymnasts know they have erred they will complete their routines with a wide

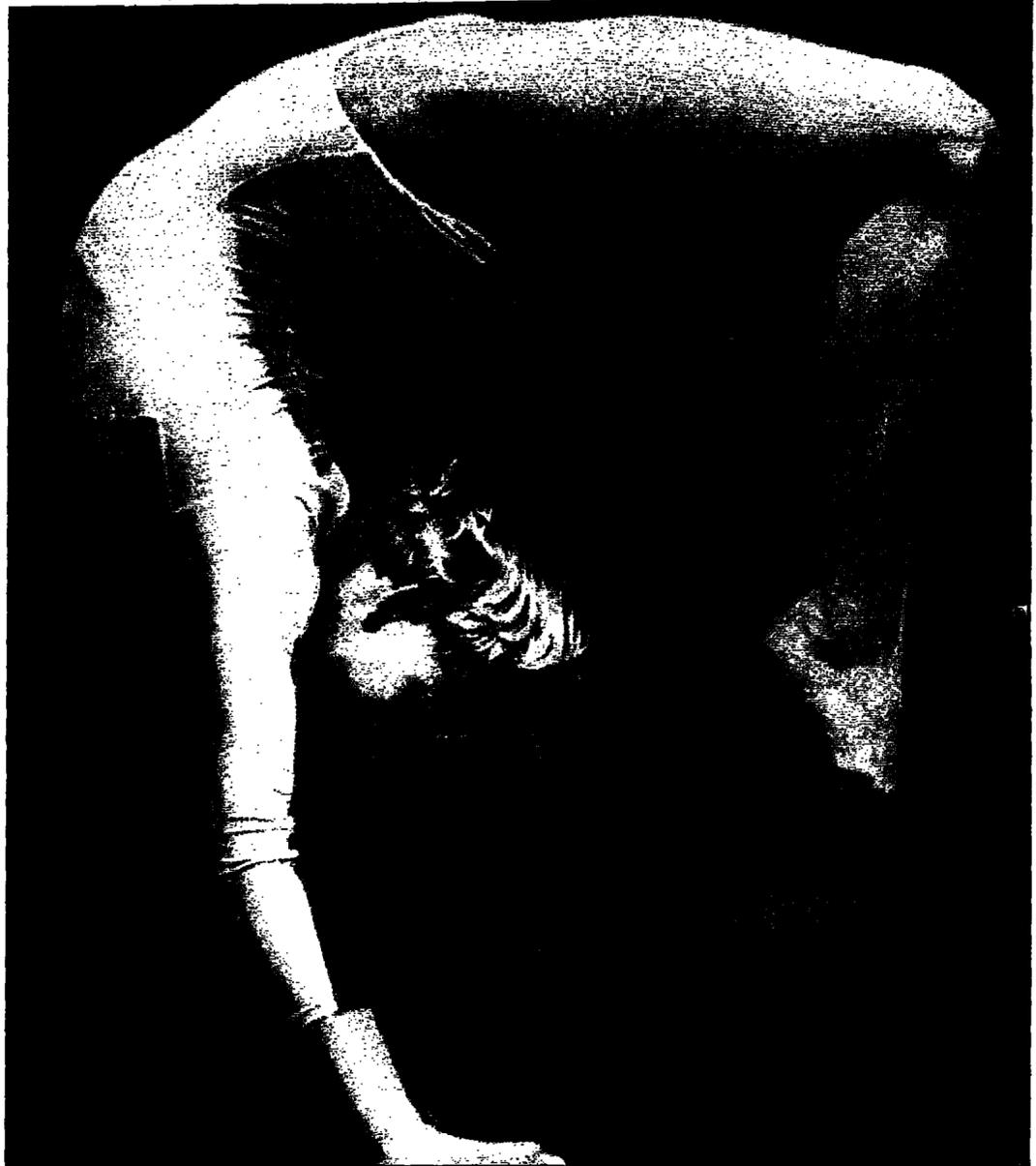
smile, and skip back to their trainers to be given a consoling hug for the cameras.

Armchair fans who want to enjoy the broadcasts from the gymnastics hall at Atlanta should avoid reading a new book by a San Francisco sports writer, Joan Ryan. She, like many of us, was initially entranced by the world of women's or, more correctly, girls' gymnastics. But when she started to talk to former US gymnasts and their parents about what actually goes on during preparations for events such as the Olympics, she was filled with disgust.

Ryan's book reports widespread warping of young American bodies and minds,

and in some cases a disregard by coaches for the wellbeing of their brittle-boned young charges. Girls as young as six are submitted to regimes as bad, surely, as anything ever seen behind the Iron Curtain.

They are bullied by their trainers, pressured by their parents — who pay thousands of dollars in gym fees — and in extreme cases their small frames simply crumple under the demands of the adults who run their lives. Since 1990 two Olympics hopefuls in US gymnastics have died, one from malnourishment, the other from over-reaching her abilities after a terrible build-up of pressure by family and associates. Others have been



Kristie Phillips, who has fallen out with Bela Karolyi, her former coach, claims he is only in the sport for the money and kudos that it brings

plunged into depression, and families have been riven by the demands of keeping up with their aspirations.

There are stories of food ravenous gymnasts on tour against the wishes of their coaches, and of young girls pleading with their parents to be allowed to give up the sport. One girl confessed to her mother that she could not bear her day off, Sunday, because it meant that the bulging and psychological agony of the week's routine was about to restart.

Fear of putting on weight has led to widespread cases of bulimia, particularly with the onset of puberty when a female body naturally increases in fat. School studies are regularly overlooked so that youngsters can spend nine-hour days in the gymnasium under the eyes of their unyielding tutors.

Bela Karolyi, a coach from Ceausescu's Romania who imported his methods to the US, is involved again this year in the American Olympics squad. He was infuriated by Ryan's book when it was published in America. A highly controversial character, he has an ability to appear at his most genial when a camera is anywhere in the vicinity — as at competitions, when he

congratulates his athletes with lavish demonstrations of affection. However, tales from his Texas gymnasium depict an unattractive martinet of a man, one who demands full authority from his athletes' parents. Ryan calls him "the high priest of insensitivity". And yet he achieves the best results.

One of Mr Karolyi's former gymnasts, Kristie Phillips, fell out with her mentor. She now says: "He's in it for himself." While the girls are enduring his strict regime "he cares about the fame and fortune he's getting out of it", she says. The coach himself dismisses many of the criticisms as "ridiculous".

In 1956 the Olympic gold and silver medalists were 35 and 21 years old. In 1968 Czechoslovakia's Vera Caslavskia, who won gold, was 26, weighed 121lb and was 5ft 3in tall. "Back then," says Ryan, "gymnastics was truly a women's sport." In 1972, the Munich games belonged to Olga Korbut of the Soviet Union — 17 years old, 4ft 11in and just 85lb. Her shape is now the average for American Olympic female gymnasts.

For one gymnast every four years, the Olympic gold medalist, the numbing physical routines can pay a dividend. Korbut, Comaneci and America's most famous female gymnast, Mary Lou Retton, have grown prosperous. For the rest, more likely, there will be nothing with which to remember their hard years in the gym other than twisted sinews and wrecked childhoods. Betty Okino, a possible Olympian in 1992 until her body started to fall to pieces, can no longer write properly, such was the damage caused by taking painkillers when her arm was injured.

The end of the Olympics will doubtless see a rise in registrations at the local gym as parents encourage their children to imitate the Olympians. Lisa Marie Nelson, a California commentator on family issues, said yesterday: "Parents should think of a girl as a person first and an athlete second. They should be conscious of her feeling of self-worth and make sure it is not linked merely to her athletic performance. Some parents live vicariously through the gymnasts, but motivation has to come from the kid if he or she is to be successful."

Keith McCafferty, who used to run a Houston organisation called the Association for Young Athletes and described himself as the greatest fan

female gymnastics had in America, said his discovery of bad practices in the sport means he can no longer watch gymnastics. "I thought at first it was a very pure sport, that the athletes were motivated only by their love of gymnastics," he said. "In fact they are surrounded by adults whose main motivation is money."

USA Gymnastics, the ruling body of the sport in America, has responded to the debate which has raged since Ryan's book. It announced the formation of a "task force" to recommend improved codes of practice among coaches, judges and parents. "With over 50,000 registered female athletes, most of them adoles-

cents, USA Gymnastics recognises its responsibility," it says. The group will, in particular, study eating disorders, menstrual dysfunction and osteoporosis among gymnasts.

It will develop a "mentoring" system where former national team members are paired with current elite gymnasts. Up-and-coming gymnasts will also be shown an advice video featuring testimonies from past stars about the pitfalls of preparing for international competition.

Part of the problem has been the judges. Many are blameless volunteers committed to their sport, but some, unfortunately, can have a distorted view of their own importance.

In future, judges who persist in casting "inappropriate" remarks about athletes' beauty or weight will be disciplined.

Joan Ryan says that modern female gymnastics in America "pervert the very femininity they hold so dear". She is not optimistic that her shocking book will change things. Female gymnasts, she writes, "spin on demand without complaint. When one breaks, another pops up from the next box. To close down the lid is to close down that part of our soul that still wants to believe in beautiful princesses and happy endings."

Little Girls in Pretty Boxes by Joan Ryan is published in the UK by the Women's Press

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EXPRESS

The final part of a series: the stressful life of the MP tipped to be Labour's Minister for Women

I feel like a voyeur — I watch people with a way of life I can never share



THE WOMAN MP

I work 18 hours a day, seven days a week, so I need enormous stamina and tremendous organisation if I am to spend any time with my two children, Jessie, 15, and Matthew, 12. In order to carve out some free time, I may work through the night a couple of times a week. I used to do this a lot before I entered Parliament, working from 10pm to 4am every Tuesday and Thursday.

Your body soon adapts to the lack of sleep. If this makes me sound like a bionic woman, that's regrettable: many women who are not MPs do the same. Sometimes it's the only way you can combine a demanding career with a fulfilled family life. As it is, I find it increasingly difficult to have any spare time at all. Hobbies are out of the question.

I am helped enormously by my husband David, who, when I'm at the House in the evening, does the cooking, helps with the homework and generally looks after the children. Most nights I get back

from the House at about 11pm or later, when the children have gone to bed. As a result, the mornings are very precious to me. It's a time when I can be with the children.

David and I do spend time together, but not as much as we would like. Although we have lunch together on Saturday, he is used to going out on his own or with friends. He works as a solicitor and is not really a political animal. He has so many other interests. He reads, he goes to concerts, he spends time with my best friend.

People say you need to spend less time with your children as they get older. I think that's ridiculous. If anything, you need to spend more time with them as they enter their teens. You have to strive to keep the structure of family life together, to keep in touch with their lives, find out what they're doing, who their friends are.

When your children are talking to you the temptation is to say: "Look darling, I have two speeches to write." But



Putting on a brave face: Tessa Jowell combines family life with an exhausting working day

you can't possibly say that. It is not their fault that their mother is so busy and spends so much time at work. Nevertheless, I think I can say that they don't feel my absence in the way that I feel theirs.

I live and work in London, so I am fortunate that I am able to get home for a couple of hours each day. I try to attend school plays, parents' evenings and see my children on their birthdays. It must be intolerable for those MPs in the North of England and Scotland who repeatedly have to miss important family events. In that sense, my experience is not typical of most MPs, who can go days without seeing their families.

I remember that once a meeting of my select committee clashed with my daughter's birthday tea. The chairman allowed me to miss the meeting so that I could go home for a couple of hours. While that couldn't have happened if I'd lived a long way outside London, it also showed that it is possible to negotiate. People are prepared to listen and help you to make other arrangements.

In many ways, an MP's life is intolerable. It can't be right that we are governed by people who purport to support family life and who are always talking about the demands of balancing home and work, but for whom the possibility of

family life doesn't really exist at all.

It is very easy to lose touch with the pace and pattern of normal life. On the rare occasions that I drive home at half past five, I look on with bewilderment at people who are able to do this every day. In fact, I feel like a voyeur observing a way of life that I can never share.

Although I have been an MP for only four years, I've seen enough to know that things must get better. The pressure on MPs demands it. A consensus is forming that Westminster ought to be reformed to meet the needs of the family. It is ridiculous to hold sittings late at night.

When I'm 65 I want to look back on my life and know that my children were never sold short because of the job I did. After the next election, when I could be a minister, I still intend to go to school concerts and get home for birthdays.

You don't have to let your job destroy your domestic life. We have to escape the notion that spending more time with your family is, in some way, a defeat — that those MPs who quit in search of a normal family life are failures.

TESSA JOWELL

The author is the Labour MP for *Dubnitch*

I can't make plans

I THINK those constituency wives who live outside London must feel as if they are part of single-parent families. Even if you live in London you will be lucky to see your husband before 11pm. This creates its own stresses and strains. If the husband has a constituency that is a long way from the family home, it is unlikely that he will even see his family at weekends. In such circumstances, the wife really has to make a life on her own, even though she may be working very hard in the constituency on behalf of her husband. It's not hard to see why a lot of politicians' marriages break down.

As a family we were lucky: we lived in London and, although Giles has a northern constituency and spent a lot of weekends in Durham, we were able to see each other during the week. He was always there for the children

THE MP'S WIFE

when they were growing up. I don't think conditions in the House are getting worse. If anything, they are improving. The last vote on Thursday night is usually at 7pm, not at 10pm as was once the case. This means that most MPs can arrive back at their constituencies at a decent time before surgery on Friday.

One of the main irritations is that you can never plan ahead. You may, for instance, agree to speak at an event in Devon only to receive a three-line whip on the day you are expected to deliver your speech. As a result, you have to cancel at short notice, letting down a lot of people. That can be hard.

LISANNE RADICE

The author is the wife of Giles Radice, Labour MP for *Durham North*.



Edward Leigh with three of his five children, (from left) Tamara, Marina and Natalia

Why we live on the A1

When the call came inviting me to write an article on how MPs cope with their families, one of my five children was screaming: "I'm bored, bored, Daddy!" It was midweek. I was at home at 11am, babysitting. I took her swimming.

Am I a part-time drone MP, totally undeserving of our pay rise? True, I was swimming at midday, but I was voting at midnight, after attending a debate in the House and speaking coincidentally on family-friendly employment. It was the third vote of the day, the second debate and, for me, two committee meetings on from the swim.

So the truth is that MPs do work full-time hours, but at very odd hours indeed. Do we succeed in juggling this extraordinary job with family life? Well, there are two great divides: one is between back-benchers and ministers, the other between those who leave their families in the constituency, and those who lug them back and forth to London. I do the latter in a second-hand Toyota Previa in which our children can wrestle all the way to Lincolnshire.

My wife and I decided when we started 12 years

FAMILY AFFAIR

ago that I wouldn't leave her behind on Monday morning, spend the week in London in a bedsit with Labour's smelly socks brigade, and slog back at 1am on Friday. So every Sunday evening when the nation is tucking up cozily to *Songs of Praise*, the Leigh family is picking up the detritus of the weekend in a Lincolnshire cottage and heading back to Westminster. Frankly it's hard pounding, but at least we're in it together.

But at all this costs. You can't afford a family house in the constituency and in central London on £34,000 a year and a few allowances that barely pay for the food and petrol.

If you're an MP and want to live all the time with your family you have to take jobs outside. But most MPs can't or won't do this, so on Monday morning it's goodbye for them to the family. Apart from the obvious penalty that they are denied a proper home for much of the week, there are other drawbacks.

One MP who has done a modest little chicken side-step to avoid fighting a

marginal seat told me he just could not afford to lose. His children were at school around the constituency, his wife's friends were there. His only home was there, and above all his only job was there.

There is a real danger that we are creating a full-time political cadre of MPs who are moderately paid, institutionalised, and cannot take risks with politics.

So unless you're fortunate enough to be an MP for the Cities of London and Westminster, your lot is either emotional destitution during the week or hefty disruption for your children.

When the policeman came to my son's school and said: "Where do you live, sonny?", my son replied: "I live on the A1." I hope he forgives me when he grows up.

To me the greatest compliment that could be paid to any politician, and which a minister once paid to me, is that he puts his family first, his religion second, his political beliefs and country third, and his party a very distant fourth.

EDWARD LEIGH

The author is the Conservative MP for *Gainsborough and Horncastle*

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the boys toilet by a member of staff which might amount to an attempt not always obvious or easy to implementation? He had entered the school but he in K V Preddy (The Times July 17) leading counsel for Preddy was Mr Ivan Krollick.

Goldsmith's Labour militants

Blair must not rule out EMU, writes Denis MacShane

The assumption that Sir James Goldsmith is the patron saint principally of the anti-European wing of the Conservative Party now needs revision. In the past few weeks, evidence has begun to surface of his infiltration into Labour thinking too. The left-wing weekly *Tribune* recently ran a glowing interview with the Medean-based billionaire, in which he was allowed space to promote his view that global free trade is a disaster for the working class.

This was followed by the launch of a coordinated campaign to persuade Labour to oppose economic and monetary union. The anti-EMU Labour grouping includes long-standing opponents to British involvement in what Dennis Skinner always denounces as the "Common Market", as well as MPs such as Roger Berry and John Austin-Walker who consider themselves pro-European but are hostile to monetary union on the ground that it involves too strict a control of public spending.

Goldsmith's faction on the Left opposes free trade

Unison, the public-sector union and Labour's biggest affiliate, has also swung into the Goldsmith camp. Its activists are trying to convert latent hostility to a single currency into a formal policy commitment from Labour. The anti-Europeanism that Neil Kinnock and John Smith had apparently slain threatens to revive. Although Blair's speeches in Europe tend more to advocate labour market flexibility than extra powers for Brussels, Labour is not divided over the issue of European membership. There are anti-European politicians in Labour's ranks of the status of John Redwood, Michael Portillo or Norman Lamont. But Goldsmith's arguments about monetary union touch a chord. In the back of some Labour minds is the hope that devaluation and massive government borrowing will perform a magic trick and allow a painless increase in exports, wages and public expenditure. Moreover, there is uncertainty about the public attitude to the single currency, the European central bank, the euro and whatever else might flow from monetary union.

Politicians nervously wonder how way business will jump. So far, there has been silence from the CBI, the City and other big companies, even if they stand to lose from being left on the margins of a monetary union. The ideological Institute of Directors is hostile to monetary union. By contrast, John Monks, the innovative TUC boss, says that monetary union would be good for private-sector jobs and growth.

But for the most part, the arguments are more and more against British involvement. Not top political or business leader looks willing to make the case for British participation in the next wave of European construction and integration, other than on terms of "wait and see".

In 1950, Clement Attlee refused to participate in the Schuman plan to merge Europe's coal and steel industries. The plan was opposed by Labour at the time because it would involve "a surrender of sovereignty". Yet John Major boasts of Britain's status, half in, half out of Europe, as a success. As Baroness Thatcher's favourite diplomat, Sir Robin Kerwick, pointed out recently, "British" hesitancy over Europe has been the major policy failure of post-war governments.

"Wait and see" may well be the best line to take on monetary union, but it presupposes that from 1998 onwards other European countries will welcome London as an equal decision-maker on economic policy if Britain refuses to take part. It also presupposes that outside monetary union the pound will behave sensibly. This is a leap of faith, given previous Labour Governments' disastrous inability either to defend or to devalue the pound in a convincing manner.

Opponents of monetary union from both the Right and the Left are quite happy to see a Labour chancellor being buffeted by sterling and having to worry about the pound's rise and fall. The Goldsmith faction on the Left opposes monetary union because it supports — albeit with a distinctly different motive — Sir James's protectionist crusade against globalisation. The Goldsmith right-wingers are hostile to monetary union because they dislike the social element in the European social market economy, and rightly suspect that the European Union has a political programme, and is not just an alliance of free trading nations.

Between them, these opponents of monetary union are occupying more and more political space. Obviously, it can hardly be in the interests of either Mr Major or Mr Blair to declare now that Britain will definitely not enter monetary union before the decision needs to be made, between 1998 and 2001.

Saying "never", even for the duration of a Parliament, is unwise politics. To say no now would rob British leaders of any influence in shaping the terms and conditions of the monetary union. Hopes that monetary union will not happen may be high in parts of SW1, but any reading of the press in Bonn, Paris and other European capitals makes clear that to count on its failing would be a mistake.

In Britain, the case for monetary union is largely being lost because those hostile to the European Union are advancing all the arguments and campaigning with a simple slogan of "No to monetary union". Is anyone willing to put the opposite case and, if so, will they please speak up before it is too late?

The author is Labour MP for Rotherham.

MAYHEM



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16 vii 96 Peter Brooks

A paper without a cause

The Observer's former Editor carps at the Scott Trust, writes Anthony Howard, but what did he expect from amateurs?

Never work for a liberal newspaper, my old friend Philip Hope-Walace, *The Guardian's* distinguished opera critic, used to say. "I suppose there is a germ of truth in that — and certainly in the past few days Andrew Jaspas, the former Editor of *The Observer*, has tried to plant such a notion in the public mind. In articles in *The Times* and the *New Statesman* — to say nothing of an interview on BBC radio — he has done his level best to convict the Scott Trust (the owners of *The Guardian* and *The Observer*) of having shamefully mistreated him in the way they dismissed him from the editorship of *The Observer* last March.

It has not, to be blunt, been a particularly edifying performance. Behind the defiant words he has written and spoken the distinct tone of a whine and a whinge has been audible. I have never met Jaspas, so I trust I can be acquitted of any self-interested motive (in any event, he took editorial control of *The Observer* a full seven years after I had ceased to have anything to do with it). If I object to the plaintive whine he has emitted, it is because it seems to me to set a very bad precedent.

When William Rees-Mogg took over the editorship of *The Times* in 1967, at the invitation of the new proprietor, Lord Thomson of Fleet, he did not, to my recollection, publicly criticise the Astors, the previous owners; nor, indeed, did he seek to diminish the achievements of his predecessor, Sir William Haley. Nor to be personal for a moment, did I, when I succeeded Dick Crossman as Editor of the *New Statesman* in 1972, feel the slightest inclination to disparage the legacy left to me by a practising politician who, however much a misfit as an Editor, ranked as one of the greatest left-wing journalists of his day.

There has, however, grown up a new and disagreeable custom, by which editors (whether failures or successes) try to enhance their own achievements by suggesting that what they inherited was an entirely bankrupt journalistic estate. Andrew Neil may have started the practice by delivering some notably graceless remarks about the state in which he found *The Sunday Times* when he became its boy-wonder Editor in

1983. Since then a relentless succession of Editors of the *Sunday Express* has played the same game — each seeming to want to outdo the last in explaining to the world what terrible mistakes were made until he or she arrived on the scene (just in the nick of time). For their readers it cannot have been a confidence-instilling spectacle — and since newspaper editors pride themselves on living on what Lord Beaverbrook once described as "the armed frontier" with politics, they might perhaps reflect that, in this respect at least, politicians usually behave rather better than they do.

Jaspas's, though, is a rather different case, because the real force of his fire is reserved not for those into whose inheritance he entered, but rather for that body of men and women who appointed him. When I worked for *The Guardian* (in those days still *The Manchester Guardian*), I was never grand enough to know much about the Scott Trust. Yet even in the old reporters' room at Cross Street, Manchester, we all felt, I think, reassured to know that our various menial activities (such as reporting on the oldest cart-horse in Lancashire or on a brand of new sunglasses in Southampton) were being supervised by a beneficent trust which, thanks to C.P. Scott, saw to it that while fact was sacred, comment at least was free.

Looking back, however, I am no longer convinced that we were right. Even in those long-departed days, the Scott Trust tended to operate rather like the puny and pusillanimous Board of Governors of the BBC. In 1966, the then five members of the trust were, admittedly, summoned to their duty by *The Guardian's* courageous Editor, Alastair Fotheringham; but it required all his energy and

determination to persuade them not to sacrifice their birthright by entering into a marriage either with Lord Thomson of the *Times* or with Lord Drogheada of the *Financial Times*.

The truth is that if Andrew Jaspas has a point (which, given his own scarcely glorious record in running *The Observer*, I doubt), it must lie in the attack he makes against that body of the great and the good who first gave him his job and then took it away from him. It so happens that I know a number of them, and despite their eminence in their own respective professions, I have never been persuaded that they know a great deal about newspapers. (That applies even to their columnist chairman, Hugo Young, whom I can still see in my mind's eye consulting me when he was a young lad of 25 as to whether he should join *The Sunday Times* or *The Observer*.) I advised the latter, he decided in favour of the former — hence, no doubt, many of the present difficulties.)

None of us, though, should minimise the unenviable burden that *The Guardian* took on when it bought Tiny Rowland's *Observer* in 1993 — plucking it at the eleventh hour from the eager hands of Andreas Whitman Smith of *The Independent*. Jaspas is understandably rude about the "culture of decline" that he found upon his appointment. That is not quite how some of us remember it, especially in the light of what has happened since. But I do not cavil unduly about that: all of us who were involved in *The Observer* after David Astor's day have to acknowledge that we — separately and collectively — bear

'Never work for a liberal paper,' said my friend. 'They always sack you at Christmas'

our own share of responsibility for the tarnishing of what was once the brightest jewel in the British liberal newspaper crown.

What went wrong? The easy answer is Jimmy Porter's in *Look Back in Anger*: there were simply no longer any great causes left to fight for. Astor's *Observer*, like Kingsley Martin's *New Statesman*, was built on a succession of idealistic campaigns: for colonial freedom, against capital punishment, in favour of a sensible, social democratic Labour Party (all of which have now been achieved).

In the 1980s, our task was a good deal less inspiring. What we saw ourselves as doing was holding the line as best we could against the bourgeois triumphalism of Thatcherism. I am not sure we managed it very well. For one thing, our business section entered into the spirit of the age with a zeal hardly surpassed by that of *The Sunday Times* or even of *The Sunday Telegraph*.

Yet what finally did for us was the Lorrio ownership. There was at the beginning something to be said for Tiny Rowland, who was at least an anti-establishment figure. He ultimately became, however, an intensely manipulative proprietor, obsessed by his own vendetta against the Al Fayed. Towards the end of the 1980s, particularly after the notorious "Phoney Pharaoh" midweek edition published on the same day as the Lorrio AGM in 1989, the shadows had certainly begun to draw in.

The only doubt I retain is whether having to cope with that sort of maverick owner was really any worse than resting the paper's future in the hands of a bunch of well-meaning — though on the available evidence wholly crass — amateurs, who manifestly never possessed the slightest idea of what *The Observer* was about (witness their two previous bosh shots at appointing an Editor). The one way in which they may now have a last chance to redeem their errors is by not standing idly by while *The Observer*, with its own distinctive character and personality, is gradually and remorselessly swallowed up into the great maw of *The Guardian*.

The author was Deputy Editor of *The Observer*, 1981-85, and is now Obituaries Editor of *The Times*. Libby Purves is away.

Cardinal sins of religion

Woodrow Wyatt takes the Irish Primate to task

My father, a regular C of E churchgoer, who never missed a Sunday, was apt to be a little eccentric. He chose his friend Lord Headley, the President of the British Muslim Society, to be one of my two godfathers. I salute Headley's memory by drinking champagne from the elegant christening cup he gave me. In the Koran which belonged to him I have found nothing to justify the blind zealotry, terrorism and cruelty of modern Islamic fundamentalists. The Koran commands a high morality and extols all the deencies of behaviour approved of by Arnold of Rugby. It echoes many of the precepts of the New Testament. The intentions of the founders of most religions were good. But the manner in which their ardent adherents have distorted them has been the bane of mankind. The bloody Christian Crusades, accompanied by massacres, rape and pillage, would not have been recognised by Christ as part of His teaching, but denounced as the basest expression of man's greed for power and riches. The centuries of inquisitions, tortures and burnings of heretics blessed by popes and English archbishops resulted from crazed fanaticism. The destruction of the South American Indians and their ancient cultures by the conquistadors was a crime against civilisation, but hailed as a victory for Christ.

Strong religious convictions have ever caused dangerous frictions. In Britain, fortunately, religious convictions have steadily weakened. It can be argued that our Civil War had religious connotations, but not convincingly. Charles I affronted the Scots when, in 1633, he was crowned in Edinburgh by seven bishops with elaborate ceremonial that offended against the simpler Protestant taste. Certainly the Puritans disliked his countenancing the Catholicism of his French wife. But the real issue was whether the King should rule in disregard of Parliament or with its consent. This was decided by the execution of Charles I and accepted by his son, Charles II, the founder of constitutional monarchy. When his Catholic brother, James II, tried to revive royal absolutism, he was removed, and the use of his throne was confirmed by William of Orange's victory at the Battle of the Boyne 306 years ago.

The Orangemen whose marches through Catholic parts of Belfast still provoke violence are descendants of Protestants from Scotland and Northern England. They were sent there towards the end of the 16th century, and during the 17th, on lands stolen from the Roman Catholic inhabitants. If these new settlers had been Roman Catholic, and not of various categories of Protestantism, there would now be no trouble in Ireland, North or South. Probably the whole of an undivided Ireland would have remained part of the United Kingdom. But religion, with its bigoted sectarianism, has intervened. It has prevented marriage between the descendants of the ancient Irish and the newer arrivals established there for a mere four centuries or so. It is as though the United States of America had remained segregated by its original national, religious and ethnic make-up.

The mainland British have the great gift of being able to assimilate in language, custom and outlook immigrants of all races from everywhere in the world. That gift has failed to cross the Irish Sea. It was religion, not a calm, objective assessment of the situation, which caused Cardinal Daly, the Catholic Primate of all Ireland, to attack Sir Hugh Annesley, the Chief Constable of the RUC, for not halting the Orange marches. The Cardinal conceded that more Irish would have been lost if the Chief Constable had done as the Cardinal wished, but thought that this was preferable to annoying the Irish Catholic nationalists. Mr Bruton, the Irish Taoiseach, has joined the Cardinal in condemning us for not giving the nationalists the power to remove the Orangemen's freedom to march as they have for centuries.

It is religion, Protestant and Roman Catholic, which fuels the flames of conflict in Northern Ireland. Religion taken too seriously is always a menace. Marxism was the religion which put the Russian people into the thrall of Lenin and Stalin and their Communist successors. Karl Marx was a fundamentally decent man. If he had realised, as he failed to do in the British Museum, that his idealistic concept of society would be twisted into a regime far more despotic than that of the Tsars, he would have presented his ideas far less dangerously and with less confidence that he alone knew the absolute truth. Religious fanatics know no compromise; they believe they have a divine mission to put the world to rights, by force if necessary. Until Ireland realises that only by compromise can those of strongly differing views live reasonably together, it is our unfortunate duty to enforce the rule of law in Northern Ireland and ensure that the gangster gunmen are eliminated. The only person presently available with the persistence, experience and toughness to clear the obstacles on the road to peace is John Major. We remove him at our peril.

Safari time

SOUTH AFRICA is rife with speculation about a possible visit by the Princess of Wales. The excitement follows reports in a South African newspaper that she has been invited to meet President Mandela after failing to see him on his recent visit to London.

Both the South African High Commission and the Princess's office say no visit is yet planned, but a press attaché at South Africa House added: "If she does visit South Africa, the President would consider a meeting with her."

Diana is said to have hoped for a private encounter with Mandela when he was here. His timetable was tight, however, and the imminent divorce announcement, as well as the question-mark over her future role, meant that Buckingham Palace couldn't countenance any such meeting. South Africa House said yesterday that the Princess would very probably have received invitations to South Africa from charitable organisations in the country. She also has an open invitation from her brother, in Cape Town.

● Curtain twitchers in Holland Park are blabbing about the latest visitors to Aubrey House, a mansion on the market in this select

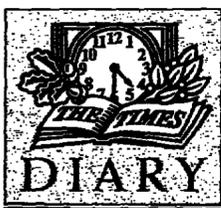
London enclave for a mere £25 million. They claim that members of the Rausing clan, headed by Britain's richest man Hans Rausing (valuation: £3 billion), have been sniffing around.

Dress up

THE DUKE OF RICHMOND has been forced to take stern measures this summer to ensure standards are upheld at Glorious



"Did you see anyone tampering with my wig?"



Goodwood. After an embarrassing encounter last month at his course with a young lady wearing the skimpiest of briefs and a top which was barely noticeable, he has sent out an edict banning members of the Richmond enclosure from wearing "hot pants" or displaying "bared midriffs". Quite.

Top brass

MICHAEL JACKSON'S appearance with his band at the Sultan of Brunet's 50th birthday party — for a rumoured \$15-\$20 million — brings to mind the occasion when the bizarre-looking popstar bumped into my old chum Field Marshall Lord Branwall while both were staying at the Sultan's hotel, the Dorchester.

Brammers was decked out in full regalia, gleaming with gongs, when he found himself check-by-jowl with the pasty singer in the

lift. "Oh my!" fluttered Jacko. "I just love your medals. I've a closetful just like them back home." "Goodness," was all that Brammers could muster in reply, before making an unprecedented retreat.

Big band

LOYALIST marching bands wrought a clamorous revenge last week on Lady Hermon, wife of the former RUC chief constable Sir John Hermon. She was spotted by Orangemen removing some of the Union flags bedecking her street in Donaghadee in the run-up to the anniversary of the Battle of the Boyne. Her punishment for such duty-mindedness was to have the pipes and drums of a local band play outside her front door for two hours. Only when Sir John appeared to apologise did the marchers move on.

Off guard

BEAUTY rather than brains is the essence of Tara Palmer-Tompkinson, socialite, clothes-horse and sometime skiing companion of the Prince of Wales. Last week, however, her mental gearbox seemed to have become clogged by one too many goat's-cheese tartines. At a party attended by soldiery, one hair-slicked swell cruised to her. She asked him what he did for a



Jennifer Ehle with Colin Firth, who became her leading man

living. "I'm a Life Guard," he purred. "Really?" said the girl of the year. "What beach?"

Sincerely

NEWS to get a man's pulse racing: the comely actress Jennifer Ehle is unattached, and she's steering clear of thespians. After being twice bitten — first by Toby Stephens and then by Colin Firth — she is thrice shy. "It's so hard to have a relationship in this business. I don't want to do it again

unless it's unavoidable. It's just not worth it," she tells *Tatler*. "Being on location and acting in a story opposite somebody is incredibly conducive to falling in love. If you took two people who work in a bank and who might possibly fancy each other if they thought about it, and you make them stand there saying 'I love you' every morning, really trying to mean it, eventually they might, you know, start to believe it."

P.H.S

Handwritten scribble at the bottom of the page.



CONTINENTAL SHIFT

Labour should rule out monetary union in the next Parliament

It is a tribute to the discipline that Tony Blair exercises over Labour that assessing its policy is so hard. Only rarely do battles of importance — such as that over the single currency — break the surface.

Mr Blair is now allegedly contemplating a statement that Labour would not enter the European monetary union (EMU) in the lifetime of the next Parliament. This is contested by those, such as Denis MacShane writing on the opposite page, who favour the new coinage and whose camp includes the influential firefighter Peter Mandelson.

It may be assumed that the fight is not finished. But there has certainly been a shift in Labour tone on the matter. Twelve months ago Mr Blair enthused about the whole project: today caution is the watchword. In Bonn recently Mr Blair used language that Chancellor Kohl would like; on the details of EMU the Labour leader stressed emphasis, expressing concern about the implications for jobs and saying that if it back-fired the public reaction would be severe and ugly. That line was echoed in *New Labour, new life for Britain*. This declared that any decision to enter should be made on "a hard-headed look at its economic practicalities", and then subject to a referendum or an election. So far, so ambiguous.

Labour is still in search of a card that would clearly trump John Major. But it must also look towards holding office. The party's central problem is that it is at least as split on EMU as the Government. In power such division would court disaster: all could unite, however, behind the argument that while there was no principled objection to future membership, Conservative mismanagement left the British economy unready to do so now. Another look could be promised in 2002.

Such a pledge makes practical sense for Labour. If Britain wanted to be one of the first set of nations to embrace the euro in 1999, detailed decision-making and enabling

legislation would be needed from autumn 1997. The first two years of the Blair tenure would be swamped by the subjects of Scotland's status and the single currency. That could be the best possible recipe for another 18 years of Conservative rule.

Labour should have learnt a lesson from the Prime Minister's misfortunes. It is better to have a policy, almost any policy, than a position based on procrastination that appeals to no one. Certainty trumps indecision. While many in the City might favour a British role at the outset, what they want to know above all else is what to plan for. A definite "not yet" for a Parliament is much better than the "probably not but please call back later" from Mr Major.

On the basis of Mr Major's record in office, and a belief that periodic alternation is healthy in a democracy, many may be inclined to give Mr Blair a chance in power. The strongest argument against that has been the fear that a vote for Labour could lead to an irreversible decision to surrender economic and political sovereignty. If that charge could be parried, then the substantive division between the two parties on Europe would rest with the social chapter, an important measure but one where the Tory opt-out has already been eroded by decisions of the European Court of Justice.

A Labour Party that took the pledge on the euro would both be more likely to get elected and have more parliamentary time in office to pursue a Blair agenda at home. Meanwhile Mr Major would be outflanked. Held hostage by his Chancellor, he could not match the Blair promise nor attack him for a commitment most Conservatives wish their own party would make. The Tories were warned by many, including ourselves thirteen months ago, that if they did not rule out the euro for five years they would leave themselves exposed. To paraphrase the Prime Minister, the words "game, set, and match" would hang perilously in the air.

PIGS AGAIN

Cuban lessons for Clinton, Dole and Europeans too

Throughout Fidel Castro's 37-year dictatorship, Cuba has had a propensity to unsettle US presidential judgment. The Americans have been right about one big thing, that tyranny grown old and poor is still tyrannical and that all legal means to weaken it are justifiable. But Washington has not always calculated its policies wisely — Kennedy's embarrassment over the Bay of Pigs was followed by unfortunate revelations of CIA dirty tricks. President Castro has made use of America's most sustained policy, its unilateral trade embargo, to blame Uncle Sam for his own dire economic mismanagement.

The Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity (Libertad) Act, sponsored by Senator Jesse Helms and Representative Dan Burton, is America's most ill-considered move yet. This legislation would expose foreign companies to American sanctions for trading with Cuba — including compensation claims in US courts against foreign enterprises alleged to be "trafficking" in Cuban property confiscated by the Castro regime from US citizens. This extraterritorial extension of US jurisdiction has no defence in international law. It recalls the Arab boycott of companies that traded with Israel, a boycott rightly denounced by America down the years. If enforced, it will undermine the multilateral trading rules on which the US depends as much as its allies. It will also harm the confidence of foreign investors and whip up a destructive storm over the Atlantic.

President Clinton, who opposed the Helms-Burton Bill on legal grounds and on the pragmatic test of harm to America's own business interests, was panicked into signing it last March in the aftermath of Cuba's outrageous shooting down of two US-registered aircraft. He was manoeuvred into this by Senator Dole, who saw the electoral advantage of challenging the President to compete for the Cuban-American vote. Mr Clinton is now horribly trapped. He

has until tonight to sign a waiver that would limit the damage by postponing the clause permitting compensation suits. But he would have to certify that drawing the Act's teeth was not only in the US national interest, but would promote democracy in Cuba. If he signs the waiver, he risks losing votes and campaign contributions from Cuban-Americans; he could even lose Florida's 25 votes in the electoral college. If he does not, he faces the chaos and cost of up to 400,000 lawsuits in the US, damage to the confidence of foreign investors whose money supports over four million American jobs and certain trade retaliation.

The electoral arithmetic must tempt him to let Helms-Burton take its course. It would be an error with repercussions that, as more than 120 American and European business leaders have jointly advised him, would long outlast the election campaign. Among the measures envisaged by the European Union and Canada are visas and work permit restrictions on US businessmen, counter-suits in their own courts against American companies and a legal challenge at the World Trade Organisation which the US stands to lose. As for President Castro, to be so quarrelled over by Western allies will give him his sweetest propaganda victory yet.

If Mr Clinton, against expectations, signs the waiver, Europeans must deal better with the anger that gave Helms-Burton its appeal. Their lack of support for American efforts to put pressure on the Castro regime has rankled for many years and led directly to the current transatlantic crisis. European "constructive engagement" with Cuba has failed to bring about the political pluralism it was supposed to achieve. America has no business attempting to control companies outside its jurisdiction. But Europeans, who say that their quarrel with America is over means rather than ends, would do well to re-examine their own policies towards Cuba.

PROPORTION IN COURT

This 1926 Act needs pruning with common sense

Every newspaper reporter who has ever sat in a court of law has, sooner or later, heard evidence that will not be transmitted verbatim to readers, viewers or listeners because such detail would be more revolting than revealing. These judgments are generally editorial judgments made by journalists. In the line of professional duty they have to balance the requirements of open justice against the need to avoid unnecessary offence. Although these judgments can and do generate argument, judges have rarely used their discretion to prevent the media striking its own balance.

Yesterday, presiding over the exotic and intricate case of the succession to the late Third Baron Moynihian, Sir Stephen Brown invoked the 1926 Judicial Proceedings Act and restricted the reporting of the case until he delivers his ruling at the end of the hearing in around two weeks' time.

The original purpose of the Act in question, framed in an era of quite different standards, was to prevent public outrage at the publication of indecent material. While failing to fully explain why the antique statute was being used, the judge did, however, acknowledge that the issue was not "a matter of salacious details."

Several laws regulate what can be

reported from courts and few of these limits are controversial: the Children and Young Persons Act restricts the identification of minors, individual anonymity is granted in rape cases and the Administration of Justice Act lays down further cautions. The Judicial Proceedings Act of 1926 has been heavily qualified and complicated by other legislation since it was first passed. The law on court reporting has become a tangled thicket and the 1926 Act seems, on yesterday's evidence, to need pruning with the blade of common sense.

The Moynihian case — concerning a louché, much-married lord who ran a string of brothels in the Philippines which he had fled to avoid prosecution for fraud — has been extensively reported here and elsewhere. Anyone wishing to protect the five and seven-year-old Filipino boys who claim the Moynihian title should also note the facts already in the public domain — and exercise due proportion. The aim cannot be to protect public decency by the use of a 1926 statute after half a century of fluctuating public standards. There is a clear public interest in the right to sit in the House of Lords. It is curious — at best — that the Judicial Proceedings Act should be used to inhibit coverage of this case.

Yours sincerely,
JOYCE YOUNGS,
University of Exeter,
Department of History
and Archaeology,
Queen's Building,
The Queen's Drive, Exeter, Devon.
July 8.

Possible future steps in Ulster

From Mr R. Fell

Sir, Your leader, "A colder eye" (July 15), is both timely and to the point. Anyone with a modicum of experience of Northern Ireland has always known that if the so-called peace process ended in an Ulster referendum being decisive, the result would be easily predictable. Under provocation, Mr Trimble pressed the fast-forward button and the "referendum" was held, rather messily, last week.

The result showed that the streets of Ulster are the streets of the United Kingdom and not under the control of a foreign power. Hence the discomfort of John Bruton, the Irish Prime Minister (report, July 13), and Cardinal Cahal Daly (report, July 12).

That is not to say that the peculiar problems of Northern Ireland do not need urgent attention. But, as your leader points out, these must be tackled in a United Kingdom context. The dangers of false hopes or fears have been well illustrated.

An answer might be a proportionately-elected executive council above the layer of normal local authorities, and it would be this body that would continue the dialogue with Dublin on cross-border co-operation.

Yours faithfully,
R. FELL,
Kings Bay,
60 The Drive, Craigweil,
Bognor Regis, West Sussex.
July 15.

From Mr David Howard
Sir, In the light of the Government's "U-turn" on the Orangemen's march, perhaps they should consider a similar U-turn with regard to Sinn Féin.

An invitation to Sinn Féin to attend the all-party talks without any preconditions on condemning violence and intimidation by any group might jolt the peace process back on track.

Yours sincerely,
D. HOWARD,
The Limes,
18 St Andrews Road, Bedford.
July 15.

From Mrs B. H. Goulding
Sir, Mr Peter Knight (letter, July 11; see also letters, July 13) feels that the "antics of the Orangemen in the last few days" are more alienating to the rest of the UK than the IRA killings of the last twenty years.

A perfect encapsulation of the famous nature of much comment on Northern Ireland.

Yours faithfully,
HERMIONE GOULDING,
36 Christchurch Road,
Winchester, Hampshire.
July 15.

MPs' pay increase
From Professor Emeritus R. A. B. Leaper

Sir, Plans are now in hand to exact further personal charges to meet the cost of long-term care in old age and to extend personal contributions to pension funds as essential supplements to inadequate basic state pensions.

Local social services struggle with inadequate resources to establish priorities where funds cannot meet the needs assessed under "community care" provisions.

Overall, we are consistently urged to hold down all public expenditure strictly to the rate of inflation, including that of wages in the public sector.

That a majority of Members of Parliament should in these circumstances vote themselves an increase of 26 per cent (report, July 11, later editions; letters, July 10, 12) out of moneys paid for by citizens through taxes is not merely morally unjustifiable but politically churlish.

The Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition were shrewd enough to realise this, but a majority of MPs failed to subordinate short-term advantage to long-term public interest.

Their action is likely to lead to a dangerous and cynical disregard for parliamentary decisions, a boost to ruthless income leap-frogging and a hardening of industrial strife. We shall all be the losers in the long term and those with incomes a quarter of MPs' salaries will lose most.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT LEAPER,
Birchcote,
New North Road, Exeter, Devon.

Effects of a buoyant US economy

From Mr Tim Yeo, MP for Suffolk South (Conservative)

Sir, Anatole Kaletsky's analysis of the reasons for the buoyant state of the United States economy ("Clinton, jobs and Keynes", July 9) has implications for this side of the Atlantic.

Although Europe may, as Kaletsky dismissively puts it, be "languishing in its worst depression since 1945" Britain is the shining exception to this generalisation, now enjoying sustainable growth and falling unemployment on a scale which almost rivals the US.

If Kaletsky is right in identifying interest-rate policy as the key ingredient in the recipe for achieving the virtuous outcome of non-inflationary growth, then credit must go to the Chancellor, whose judgments have proved so skilful since Britain left the exchange-rate mechanism.

Since interest-rate charges have an immediate and substantial impact on both household income and business cash flow, perhaps those politicians and pundits at present obsessed with tax cuts could now divert their attention to an even more important issue.

Yours faithfully,
TIM YEO,
House of Commons,
July 9.

English rights over devolution

From Mr Jim Sillars and Lord Elis-Thomas

Sir, In referendums on Scottish and Welsh devolution are the English affected in any meaningful way, and if so have they a right to participate?

That might seem a strange question from two people who have, respectively, devoted a good part of their lives campaigning to divorce Scotland and Wales from England. However, since the referendums are to be on devolution rather than independence, it is a question no democrat anxious to retain harmony among the three peoples can dodge.

Devolution is not an expression of Scottish and Welsh self-determination. It is a profound adjustment of the political and legislative partnership with England in a continuing unitary state, in which Westminster is the only legislature governing England.

That truth is not changed by Labour's promise of English regionalism, as Labour is not suggesting legislative assemblies for the likes of Yorkshire and Lancashire.

It is unjust to the English to have their Westminster representatives vote money for Scotland and Wales without a say or control over how it is

spent, and to then have Scottish and Welsh MPs exercise a "right" to determine expenditure and policy in England.

Mr Blair refuses to address this West Lothian question because the answer, as on the tartan tax, is very uncomfortable: you cannot ask the English to debate their democracy and have their government determined by external minorities who have rights and no responsibilities to the electorate affected.

It would demean the democratic reputation of the Scottish and Welsh peoples to deny that the English have the right to vote in any devolution referendums. To steamroller that right may serve the short-term purpose of Mr Blair's unthinking Labour, but it will sow the seeds of bitterness and friction between the three peoples, and that is something we have never wanted.

Yours etc,
JIM SILLARS
(MP, Labour and SLP, for South Ayrshire, 1970-79; SNP for Glasgow, Govan, 1988-92),
ELIS-THOMAS
(President, Plaid Cymru, 1984-91),
c/o 97 Grange Loan, Edinburgh.

From Mr H. R. Monger
Sir, The juxtaposition of recent news items gives rise to an uneasy feeling that the British State exists in a Ruritanian world all of its own.

On the day that it was revealed that one of the principal reasons for a major Korean company to invest in the UK is the fact that "Korean wage costs ... have overtaken those of Britain" (Section 2, July 11) MPs were busy calculating the effect of a £9,000

salary increase on their personal bank balances and their pension prospects, and Mr Nelson Mandela had been receiving (well merited on his part) florid state hospitality with a level of splendour somewhat out of keeping with that of a nation boasting a workforce which it seems is now paid less than that of the people of Korea.

A legislature and a State more humble in their approach would surely be more appropriate to represent us the people.

Yours faithfully,
H. R. MONGER,
48 St Helens Wood Road,
Hastings, East Sussex,
July 12.

From Mrs Cynthia Maccooby

Sir, Anatole Kaletsky's reminder of the importance of demand-management policies for the running of a successful economy is most welcome.

It should also be noted that demand management has a role to play in cutting the public-sector borrowing requirement (PSBR). An increase in public and private investment by stimulating growth in the economy increases tax revenues from incomes and expenditure and reduces welfare benefit payments for unemployment and income support.

Too often simplistic ideas of cutting public investment in order to reduce the PSBR have had the paradoxical result of increasing the PSBR, as we have seen in recent years. Cuts in government expenditure, for example, by reducing growth in the economy, result in increased expenditure on unemployment costs and reductions in tax revenue.

To try to run an economy without demand-management policies, relying solely on supply-side improvements, is like trying to steer a vessel by polishing the brass and scrubbing the decks while avoiding recourse to the rudder.

Yours faithfully,
CYNTHIA MACCOOBY,
115 Mortlake Road,
Kew, Richmond, Surrey.

English rights over devolution
spent, and to then have Scottish and Welsh MPs exercise a "right" to determine expenditure and policy in England.

Mr Blair refuses to address this West Lothian question because the answer, as on the tartan tax, is very uncomfortable: you cannot ask the English to debate their democracy and have their government determined by external minorities who have rights and no responsibilities to the electorate affected.

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JIM SILLARS
(MP, Labour and SLP, for South Ayrshire, 1970-79; SNP for Glasgow, Govan, 1988-92),
ELIS-THOMAS
(President, Plaid Cymru, 1984-91),
c/o 97 Grange Loan, Edinburgh.

From Mrs Carroll Powell
Sir, More Labour MPs than Tory ones voted to give themselves a 26 per cent pay increase. Can we now expect Gordon Brown to propose a windfall tax on MPs' salaries?

Yours faithfully,
CARROLL POWELL,
27 Ingham Road, NW6.

From Mr Arnold Ballis
Sir, On June 19 your Arts Correspondent reported that doubts had been cast in certain quarters on the attribution of the National Gallery's *Samson and Delilah* to the hand of Rubens.

Your report also suggested that a recent re-dating of the Vienna portraits of Archduke Albert and Isabella of The Netherlands had "convinced" me and a colleague that these paintings were the work of "the young Jacob Jordaens, who was greatly influenced by Rubens."

I find your suggestive association between these two cases highly misleading. I do not believe that they have any connection whatever, and I for one have no doubts regarding the authenticity of the *Samson and Delilah*.

Yours sincerely,
A. BALLIS,
Nationaal Centrum voor de
Plastische Kunsten van de
Icde en de IJde Eeuw (Rubenianum),
Kolveniersstraat 20,
B2000 Antwerp, Belgium.

From Mr Patrick Howarth
Sir, A critic, writing in your Weekend supplement (July 13), states that the author of a book which has now appeared in paperback "excels at depicting squalor and dreariness".

Is this regarded in the book trade as a laudatory review, or not?

Yours faithfully,
PATRICK HOWARTH,
Flat 2, Pencarrow,
The Avenue, Sherborne, Dorset,
July 15.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5046.

Volte-face on a conference centre

From Dr Trevor I. Williams

Sir, It is ironic that the Royal Society should be among the scientific bodies advocating a large international conference centre (ICC) in London (letters, June 21, July 10).

During his presidency, 1945-50, Sir Robert Robinson had imaginative plans for a comprehensive science centre on the South Bank which would accommodate not only the Royal Society but all the other principal scientific societies, the research councils and possibly also the Patent Office and the (then) Department of Scientific and Industrial Research. It would also be able to stage very large international conferences.

The proposal had considerable support from the scientific community in general and from members of the Labour Government — notably Stafford Cripps and Herbert Morrison. A representative committee was set up to consult all interested parties.

Unfortunately Robinson's successor as president, Sir Edgar Adrian, and many of the fellows had no enthusiasm for this communal life. In a memorandum to Morrison, Adrian stated that the Society must not be expected to share its lecture hall with other societies except as a favour. In Burlington House the Royal Society has no difficulty in maintaining the independence and almost Olympian dignity and exclusiveness needed for a supreme scientific council.

A Scientific Societies Accommodation Committee (with Robinson as chairman) continued into Adrian's presidency but the scheme eventually foundered, partly through indifference and partly because the Government ran out of funds.

Robinson never favoured the society's move to its present home in Carlton House Terrace. Late in life he wrote:

Is it too much to hope that even after so much delay there might arise someone with sufficient imagination to grasp the advantages for the City of London and for the British Isles that would accrue from the realisation of our dreams?

Perhaps, half a century on, the millennium will provide the occasion.

Yours faithfully,
T. I. WILLIAMS
(Author, *Robert Robinson, Chemist Extraordinary*, OUP, 1990),
20 Bleenheim Drive, Oxford.
July 11.

Lincoln impasse
From the Very Reverend Randolph Wise

Sir, The dispute at Lincoln Cathedral (reports, July 5, 6; letter, July 10) has been well publicised and it has inevitably caused distress to all who have a care for the place and people involved. Yet there are signs of encouragement and hope.

Last Palm Sunday, my wife and I attended the traditional liturgy there; and under the presidency of the Dean and with the collaboration of clergy and choir, the substantial congregation were transported out of this world by the spirit of the worship.

More recently, we went to a weekday Evensong, when Dean and Sub-Dean were partners in a fine offering of worship. When collaboration is possible in this dimension there must surely be hope that co-operation may be extended into other fields.

Yours sincerely,
RANDOLPH WISE,
27 Derwent Drive, Oakham, Rutland.
July 8.

Rubens attribution
From Mr Arnold Ballis

Sir, On June 19 your Arts Correspondent reported that doubts had been cast in certain quarters on the attribution of the National Gallery's *Samson and Delilah* to the hand of Rubens.

Your report also suggested that a recent re-dating of the Vienna portraits of Archduke Albert and Isabella of The Netherlands had "convinced" me and a colleague that these paintings were the work of "the young Jacob Jordaens, who was greatly influenced by Rubens."

I find your suggestive association between these two cases highly misleading. I do not believe that they have any connection whatever, and I for one have no doubts regarding the authenticity of the *Samson and Delilah*.

Yours sincerely,
A. BALLIS,
Nationaal Centrum voor de
Plastische Kunsten van de
Icde en de IJde Eeuw (Rubenianum),
Kolveniersstraat 20,
B2000 Antwerp, Belgium.

Low blow?
From Mr Patrick Howarth

Sir, A critic, writing in your Weekend supplement (July 13), states that the author of a book which has now appeared in paperback "excels at depicting squalor and dreariness".

Is this regarded in the book trade as a laudatory review, or not?

Yours faithfully,
PATRICK HOWARTH,
Flat 2, Pencarrow,
The Avenue, Sherborne, Dorset,
July 15.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5046.



CAUSE



CAUSE

The boys' toilet by a member of staff was not always obvious or easy to find. He had entered the school but he was not always obvious or easy to find. He had entered the school but he was not always obvious or easy to find.



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
July 15: The Queen, accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh, took the Salute this evening at a performance of the Royal Tournament at Earls Court.

Palmer, Princess Alexandra, the Hon Lady Ogilvy was represented by Dame Mona Mitchell.
ST JAMES'S PALACE
July 15: The Prince of Wales was present this morning at a Parade in Bandar Seri Begawan to mark the birthday of the Sultan of Brunei.

Luncheons

Baroness Birk
Baroness Birk presided at the annual luncheon of the ladies committee of the European Atlantic Group held yesterday at the House of Lords.



A seven-week-old osprey being tagged at the Loch of the Lowes reserve at Dunkeld, Borders, where three chicks successfully hatched 60ft up an old pine

Mercers' Company

The following have been elected officers of the Mercers' Company for the ensuing year:
Master, Mr John Drayton

Memorial service

Laura Trenchard, Tara Morrison, Lord Margaret
The Queen was represented by Lieutenant-General Sir Maurice Johnston, Lord Lieutenant of Wiltshire, and the Duke of Edinburgh by Brigadier Clive Robertson at a memorial service for Lord Margaret held yesterday in Salisbury Cathedral.

Birthdays today

The Earl of Albemarle, 3; The Ven George Austin, Archdeacon of York, 65; Mr Alan Campbell-Johnson, writer, 83; Mrs Margaret Court, tennis player, 54; Mr Alan Donnelly, MEP, 59; Mr Frank Ford, MEP, 54; Professor Sir Hugh Ford, mechanical engineer, 83; Sir John Freeland, QC, former legal adviser, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, 69; Sir Charles Graham, former Lord-Lieutenant of Cumbria, 77; Mr W.B. Howard, former deputy chairman, Marks & Spencer, 70; Mrs Shirley Hughes, author and illustrator, 69; Baroness Llewellyn-Davies of Hastoe, 81; the Ven Dr Harold Lockley, former Archdeacon of Loughborough, 80; Mr Thomas Megahy, MEP, 67; Mr Edward Miller, former MP, 70; Sir William Collins, Cambridge, 81; Lord Prentice, 73; Professor Sir Philip Rendell, biochemist, 70; General Bernard Rogers, former Supreme Allied Commander, Europe, 75; Mr T.G. Rosenthal, publisher, 61; Mr J.J. Warr, former president, MCC, 69; Miss Diana Warwick, chief executive, Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals, 51; Lord Westbury, 74; Dr T.I. Williams, scientific consultant, 75; Sir George Young, Secretary of State for Transport, 55; Mr Pinchas Zukerman, violinist, 48.

Today's royal engagements

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh will give a garden party at Buckingham Palace at 4 to mark the centenary of the Royal Victorian Order. Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother will also attend.

University news

HUGHES HALL
Elected into a research fellowship from October 1, 1996:
Wolfgang Eholzer, Elizabeta Mukaeova-Ladinska, Robert Neil Pike, Ziyun Li.

Brewers' Company

The following have been elected officers of the Brewers' Company for the ensuing year:
Master, Mr M R M Foster; Upper Warden, Mr C J R Pope; Lower Warden, Mr R H B Neame.

Marriages

Mr C.E.W. Mackenzie Geddis and Miss E.C.A. Neill
The marriage took place on Saturday, July 6, at St Laurence's Church, Affpuddle, Dorset, of Mr Christopher Mackenzie Geddis, only son of Mrs Mackenzie Geddis, of Clapham, London and the late Mr M.B. Geddis, of Elm House, Bournemouth, and the late Mrs Neill, of Bournemouth, Dorset.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr R.D. Leatham and Miss G.S. Mounsey
The engagement is announced between Richard David, son of Mr Simon and Lady Victoria Leatham, of Burghley House, Stamford, and Georgina Susan, youngest daughter of Mr Simon Mounsey and the late Mrs Mounsey, of Barnes House, Pitt-down, East Sussex.

Receptions

Prime Minister
The Prime Minister and Mrs Major were hosts at a reception held last night at 10 Downing Street.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Sir Joshua Reynolds, first President of Royal Academy, 1768-92, Plymouth, Devon, 1725; Jean Baptiste Corot, painter, Paris, 1796; Mary Baker Eddy, founder of Church of Christ Scientist, Bow, New Hampshire, 1821; Otto Jespersen, authority on English grammar, Randers, Denmark, 1860; the Rev James Owen Hannay (George Birmingham), novelist, Belfast, 1865; Raski Amundsen, polar explorer, Oslo, 1872; Trygve Lie, first Secretary-General of UN, 1946-52, Oslo, 1896.

13 books on archaeology shortlist

A BAKER'S dozen of books will compete for the Archaeological Book of the Year Award this summer (Norman Hammond writes). Shortlisted from nearly 70 nominations sent in by publishers, reviewers and readers, the 13 titles span Britain's past from the Iron Age to Victorian times.

Mr C.S. Gulbenkian

To mark the 41st Anniversary of the death of Mr Calouste Sarkis Gulbenkian, a memorial service will be held at the Armenian Church of St Sarkis, Iverna, Gardens, London W8, on Sunday, July 21, at noon, after the celebration of the Divine Liturgy, which will commence at 11.00am.

BMDS: 0171 680 6880
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

TRADE: 0171 481 1982
FAX: 0171 481 1982

PERSONAL COLUMN

BIRTHS
SKINNER - On 11th July, to Annabel (née Evans) and David, a daughter, Alice Juliet Perry.

DEATHS
DIXIE - Mary Margaret, aged 56 years, died on July 12th at home, following a long illness. She was the wife of Paul for 56 years.

DEATHS
MARRAS - John on July 12th peacefully at home, beloved husband of Susan, who predeceased him.

DEATHS
STANLEY - On July 12th at Hartwood, Sheila Margaret, aged 72 years, died peacefully.

IN MEMORIAM - PRIVATE
Rakan Nasser
Oh I have slipped the surly bonds of Earth
And danced the skies on laughter-silvered wings.

FLIGHTS DIRECTORY
RENTALS
SITUATIONS VACANT
TICKETS FOR SALE

OBITUARIES

JOHN BOON

John Boon, CBE, publisher, died on July 12 aged 79. He was born on December 21, 1916.

A MILLS & BOON romance is a phrase that has become increasingly familiar since the beginning of the 1970s. Even those who use it sneeringly would find it hard to deny that this family publishing house, in whose fortunes John Boon played so significant a part, has achieved an amazing success.

Mills & Boon, set up in 1908 by two ex-Methuen men, was struggling when Gerald Mills died 20 years later. However, Charles Boon refocused it, focused on romantic fiction and saw his firm benefit from the strong rise of commercial lending libraries — both WH Smith's and the Boots' libraries were still going strong during the 1930s. He certainly had the satisfaction of knowing that he would leave a solid business to his sons.

John Trevor Boon, his third son, was always an extremely able all-rounder. After Felsted School, where he shone on the sports field, he was elected a scholar of Trinity Hall, Cambridge, and got a first in history and a half-Blue in athletics. He had barely joined the firm when the war broke out: he served as an infantryman, was a major commanding a company of the South Wales Borders at the D-Day landings and throughout the campaign in North West Europe, being mentioned in dispatches.

He spent a further year in the historical section of the Office of the War Cabinet before returning to the family firm where, as commercial and circulating libraries died away in the postwar years, hardback romantic fiction titles fell on hard times. Despite this, with his older brother Alan — no administrator but a gifted editor — he built a team which perfectly understood this particular publishing area.

They selected and schooled writers to produce professional and skilfully written novels (some much-vaunted winners of literary fiction prizes have been much worse written). Yet they failed to recognise that the not-to-elevated market, which they so successfully catered for, would — if offered paperback romances — prove



John Boon, left, with his brother Alan in 1982

to be capable of infinite expansion. It was not that John Boon was blind to the need constantly to change and develop. But, essentially a serious-minded man, he busied himself with the wrong things. He was very keen on developing a crafts list and particularly after buying the long established educational publisher, Allman — an educational list. (He had been associated since its foundation with the Open University, and became a director of its Educational Enterprises in 1977.)

At Mills & Boon he was appointed managing director in 1963, and soon afterwards two external events radically changed the firm's fortunes. Within the United Kingdom a few romances had been issued in paperback form — and the firm found itself startled by their success. Meanwhile in Canada those in charge of Harlequin Books, which belonged to the Bonnycastle family and successfully sold paperback novels, were warned by a friendly bishop that their romances were becoming too raunchy. They wrote to Mills & Boon, as known producers of rather more wholesome fare. (In later years Alan Boon wryly reflected: "Thank God we didn't lose their letter.") Supplies were anyway duly arranged. The vast North American market greatly liked what it got; the

Mills & Boon phenomenon had begun. Inevitably, Harlequin soon wanted to control this invaluable supplier, and in the early 1970s John Boon, a shrewd negotiator, sold the firm to the Canadians on terms which made the Boon family rich. But the family did not then bow out: the older brother Alan, with his editorial team, continued as the skilled (though not, of course, by now exclusive) producers of the romances, while John, the businessman brother became vice-chairman of Harlequin Enterprises. Harlequin itself was subsequently bought out by the big Torstar Group of Toronto, whose board John Boon

joined later in the 1970s. He thus became a powerful influence in the phenomenal international expansion of Mills & Boon/Harlequin romantic paperback novels. (In the mid-1990s more than 200 million of them were sold annually in over 100 separate international markets; they were also translated into 26 different languages.)

Always well-organised and hard-working — staff were disconcerted by his practice of getting to the office by 8am — Boon found time for a remarkable range of book trade activities.

He served as president of the Publishers Association and on several of its committees, as president of the International Publishers Association, as chairman of the publishers advisory panel of the British Council, as president of the Society of Bookmen and as a director of Book Tokens as well as being — a notable test of stamina — a member of no fewer than seven of the book trade's overseas missions. He was appointed CBE in 1968.

Although no extrovert, John Boon was extremely likeable and clubbable — something proved by his membership of the Garrick, the Saville and the Beeston, to say nothing of the RAC. He was also (from his days as an undergraduate athlete) a member of Hawks, besides being a pillar of the Wine Society.

Later in his benign (even episcopal) appearance, which reflected his nature, led business strangers to think him a soft touch; they were soon disabused. But even his trade colleagues often wondered — with amusement rather than malice — whether his close association with putting Mills & Boon/Harlequin romances so emphatically on the map of the world had ever included reading one of them from cover to cover.

He married Felicity Hutchinson in 1943. A linguist, she gave him much practical support (notably when at an International Publishers Association meeting in Tokyo she gave a speech in well-rehearsed Japanese), and his more recent years were saddened when she became a prolonged victim of Alzheimer's disease. There were four sons of the marriage, all of whom survive him.

WALTER HASSAN



Hassan and the Old No 1 racing Bentley

Walter Hassan, OBE, engineer, died on July 13 aged 91. He was born on April 25, 1905.

WALTER HASSAN personified the sort of all-round engineer who is now becoming more of a rarity in the profession. He was one of a tradition and a breed who knew their theory, but were still intensely practical men, who had the wisdom of a wide ranging experience and the judgment born of oily hands.

In the postwar years he played a crucial role in the development of some of the most famous engines produced in Britain: the Jaguar XK120 and V12 engines, and the Coventry Climax fire-pump unit that became the first successful postwar Grand Prix engine. At Coventry Climax he also designed a flat 16 cylinder Grand Prix engine, a small diesel engine and many others that never reached production for a variety of reasons. But Wally Hassan's engineering exploits started well before the war with W.O. Bentley.

Walter Thomas Frederick Hassan was born at Upper Holloway, north London, the eldest of six sons. His father was the manager of a gentlemen's outfitters in Highgate. Walter wanted to be a marine engineer, but the opportunities to pursue such a career in land-locked north London were few — indeed in 1920 jobs of any kind were scarce. So after completing his education at the Northern Polytechnic and the Hackney Technical Institute, he began to look for a job at the age of 15. Returning with his father from an unsuccessful foray to the Sunbeam works, he noticed in Cricklewood a new factory being built which carried the name of the owner Walter Owen Bentley.

His father wrote for an interview, it was granted and Walter started as a boy learner at ten shillings a week as employee number 15. Surrounded by experts he quickly assimilated the practical side of automobile engineering. To learn the theory, he attended the Regent Street Polytechnic on a part-time basis. He passed the examinations and became a member of the Institute of Automobile Engineers. At the age of 25 he was put in charge of Bentley's racing department and made annual trips to the Le Mans 24 hour race. He also drove competitively himself and was fortunate to survive a crash in a 3-litre Bentley at Montlhéry, France, in the early 1930s.

When W. O. Bentley sold out to Rolls-Royce in 1931, Hassan joined the wealthy Bentley driver Woolf Barnato,

and from this association emerged the Barnato Hassan Bentley, and later the Pacey Hassan. In a garage in Belgrave Mews he built Old No 1, a 6½-litre engine car on a 4-litre frame, which went over the banking at Brooklands in the 500-mile race killing the driver.

When Barnato retired, Walter moved to ERA in Bourne. But because his wife was in Surrey he claimed that he was drinking too much beer and moved down to Thompson and Taylor at Brooklands where he worked on the Raiton-designed record breaker to be driven by John Cobb. While tuning an SS100 for Edgar Wadsworth he met Bill Heynes chief engineer of SS Cars, and later joined that company as chief experimental engineer.

When the war started Hassan went down to Bristol to work on aircraft carburettor development, but hurried back to Coventry when he heard that SS Cars were to develop an air transportable, parachuteable, lightweight vehicle. A talented team produced two vehicles, but neither went into production because aircraft and parachute development overtook the vehicles: a standard Jeep could be transported and parachuted. The famous XK120 engine was created after discussions when Sir William Lyons, the boss of Jaguar, Walter Hassan and the engineering team were on fire-watching duty together at the Coventry factory.

Hassan moved to Coventry Climax as chief engineer in 1950, and was soon producing racing engines which powered four world championship winning cars from 1959 to 1965. Jaguar took over Coventry Climax in 1963, and Hassan was made director, Power Units, and, with Harry Munday, he designed the magnificent V12 engine which was first fitted to the E Type Jaguar in 1971. A year later, with the V12 now launched in the saloon car, Hassan retired at the age of 67. He was appointed OBE in 1971.

Although troubled by his hips and knees, his brain and his enthusiasm were as sharp as ever. He redesigned the engine for the Pacey Hassan Bentley model, giving it twin overhead camshafts with the combustion chambers. Shrewd, with an immense depth of knowledge he was a joy to talk to, and relished good company. He was also courteous and tireless in his efforts to help a worthy cause.

His wife Ethel and one son predeceased him. He is survived by three sons and a daughter.



Kumar (right) in Mehboob Khan's Mother India, 1957

Raj Kumar, Indian film actor, died of blood cancer on July 3 aged 68. He was born in Loralai (formerly India, now in Pakistan) on October 8, 1927.

RAAJ KUMAR did not belong to modern Indian cinema, a medium every day more mercenary and Westernised. His laconic looks and unhurried elegance were of another age, one of understated tones and courtly memories. Unlike present-day Bombay film stars, he was a cultured, well-taught man, his baritone voice lending itself as readily to a recitation, say, of Ghalib's classical poetry as to the "dialogues" concocted especially for him by awe-struck screenwriters.

RAAJ KUMAR

a phrase that is still widely used in India — Raj Kumar's middle-class breeding and education could so easily have brought him success in the managerial or administrative services. India was young when he was young and his professional prospects were considerable; besides, his patriotic father who was an officer in the Army, expected his son to serve the newly-independent nation.

Indeed, he did join the Bombay police, working at the Mahim police station until 1952. Yet his attraction to the khaki uniform of his profession was less powerful than the allure of the city's film studios, and Raj Kumar, after work each day, would travel to the Ranjit Studio to pester the directors in the hopes of landing a film part.

His rich, rare voice — a precious asset in a cinema culture which then valued stylised delivery as highly as an ability to act — soon caught the attention of film-makers, and he made his debut in 1952, in *Rangeli* (Merry Woman).

For the film, he abandoned his real name (the decidedly uncinematic Kulbhushan Pandit, full of ponderous Brahmin resonances) and adopted his glamorous *nom de théâtre*, which means "crown prince".

It was not until *Mother India* (1957), an emotional, patriotic film which captured the spirit of the times, that Kumar started in a genuine hit. The success of the film, still considered by many to be one of the finest ever to come out of "Bollywood", was due of course to the actress Nargis, whose fragile beauty won for her the hearts of the nation. But the young Kumar was noticed by all, and starring roles were never again to be a problem.

With his ramrod posture and bearing, his virile voice

and his closely clipped moustache, the ex-police officer soon became a cult figure with college boys across northern India, who mimicked his gait, his mannerisms and his style. Although he was never to attain the status of romantic hero in the manner of Dilip Kumar or Raj Kapoor (or even, later, of Dev Anand or Rajesh Khanna), Raj Kumar won the devotion of legions of Indian women with his sublime performance in *Pakeezah* (The Pure One).

If there is a film which rivals *Mother India* in the pantheon of Indian cinematography, it is perhaps *Pakeezah*. When the account of independent India is written in the next century, sensitive social historians will rate this film as the greatest event of 1971, ranking with the liberation of Bangladesh by soldiers of the Indian Army. Kumar starred in this tale of an aristocrat's love for a dancing girl, alongside the breathtaking Meena Kumari, and it cannot be said that his performance was in any way inferior to hers.

"I saw your feet. They are very beautiful. Do not bring them down to earth, for they will be soiled." These lines, from the young aristocrat to his ill-fated courtesan, are among the most famous in all Indian cinema. To millions of moviegoers it was apt that they should come from Kumar. The firmness of his speech, after all, was the making of him.

The pipe-smoking actor, who loved golf and pranks, lived his life at a discreet distance from the rest of Bombay's celluloid tribe. He continued to act in films — although only occasionally — until the early years of the 1990s, when illness overtook him.

He is survived by his wife Gayatri, and by a daughter and two sons.

PERSONAL COLUMN

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LAB ANIMALS NEED YOUR HELP!

The mice pictured here beyond help. What was left of him after the "researchers" were through has long been incinerated, along with the remains of countless other innocent victims of the vivisection laboratory.

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MUSIC AND ART IN RUSSIA

BOLSHEVIST ATTITUDE TO "KITEZH". THE NEW CRITICISM.

(FROM OUR RIGA CORRESPONDENT) Fresh efforts are being made at Moscow and Leningrad to "purge the stage," to make it "serve the revolution," and it has been announced that the repertoire for the next season will contain no "objectionable matter" of a capitalist, bourgeois, or religious nature.

ON THIS DAY

July 16, 1926

A cultural purge in Soviet Russia decided that Wagner's Lohengrin was not acceptable but, even with a new libretto, Glinka's Life for the Tsar still retained "monarchist associations".

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school grounds and was found in the boys' toilet by a member of staff which might amount to an attempt to implement? He had entered the school but he leading course for Freddy was Mr Ivan Krotick.

Challenge wrong VAT fines, says accountant

TAXPAYERS who set out to appeal against VAT penalties imposed for late or incorrect payments often give up at the first hurdle, according to Moores Rowland, the chartered accountant (Rodney Hobson writes).

Holidays in the saddle bring business success

Veronica Heath meets a former travel operator offering a different package

IRENE WILSON says horses are in her blood. As a youngster, riding was her hobby. Yet when she left school she chose a job that had nothing to do with horses: she went to work in a travel agency.

tion and food," she said. "It was a brave venture, but it has paid off." The hotel is the main base for the business, Northumbria Horse Holidays. A mini-bus transports the guests to and from the stables at Annfield Plain, Co Durham.



Irene Wilson used her expertise to fill a market niche

Village life decline 'stunting growth'

By BRIAN COLLETT

A COUNTRYSIDE lobby group has intensified its campaign for better services after a depressing report from the Rural Development Commission.

worse." The absence of public transport hits the unemployed, too, she said. People seeking work could not reach JobCentres without cars.

Price to pay for the euro

By RODNEY HOBSON

IF BRITAIN joins the single European currency it could cost small and medium-sized businesses £2 million to cope with the change-over, Blick Rothenberg, the chartered accountant, says.

based accountant believes the money markets will begin using the euro electronically in 1999 and notes and coins will be issued by 2002 at the latest.



"We must be getting near an election..."

Siparex, the leading French equity investor, will host a seminar on finance for small businesses at the Balmoral Hotel, Edinburgh, on September 19. Speakers will include Brian McVey, of Scottish Enterprise. Details from Andrew Templeton on 0131-225 6990.

More than £100,000 of European funding has been awarded to the area covered by Aztec, the training and enterprise council in Kingston, Merton and Wandsworth. Call 0181-547 3934.

Centre in Enfield, Middlesex. The centre encourages technology businesses and is part-funded by the European Commission. The legal service will be provided by Beachcroft Stanleys, a firm of solicitors. Call 0181-805 9100.

The average director, also male, is 48, has been 15 years with the company and earns £60,522, including an £8,737 bonus. The female executive continued to decline in small firms, but her average increase of 5.8 per cent was slightly better than men's. She is typically aged 39, and, after eight years with her company, earns £27,509, including a £3,116 bonus.

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Table with 4 columns: Item, Retail Price, Auction Price, Item, Retail Price, Auction Price. Lists various items like VW Golf GTI, Mercedes C126, Pioneer DEB CD Car CD, etc.

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BRIEFINGS

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Queen's Bench Division

Law Report July 16 1996

Court of Appeal

Tenant was unaware of relevant fact

Regina v Westminster City Council. Ex parte Obaid. Before Mr Justice Carnwath. [Judgment June 26]

Unawareness that housing benefit was subject to limitations in relation to certain rents amounted to being "unaware of any relevant fact" within the meaning of section 60(3) of the Housing Act 1985.

Mr Justice Carnwath said that the defendant was unaware of the fact that housing benefit was subject to limitations in relation to certain rents...

unintentionally homeless and in priority need and had given them temporary accommodation at Frensham Drive in Putney pending a final offer.

They stayed there from July 1994 to July 1995. In May 1995 Wandsworth offered them permanent accommodation in a flat at Beaumont Road but they appealed against that offer on health grounds.

Mr Terence Gallivan for the applicant, Mr Clive Jones for the council.

when assessed by comparison with rents payable on suitable alternative accommodation in the area.

Being unable to meet the shortfall on the rents they applied to Westminster City Council for housing as being threatened with homelessness.

The council's case was that the applicant and her husband were the authors of their own misfortune, that they were never in a position to pay the rent at Beaumont Road and that they should have taken the Beaumont Road accommodation.

future employment could be treated as "awareness of a relevant fact" for the purposes of section 60(3) provided it was sufficiently specific to identify housing opportunities, and provided it was based on some genuine investigation and not mere "aspiration".

Although that interpretation might not accord with what one would normally understand by a reference to a "relevant fact", it was an interpretation by which his Lordship was bound.

It was perhaps justified by the general intent of the Act to ensure that those who found themselves under the extreme pressures of homelessness should not be penalised except for decisions made with their eyes fully open.

Mr Stewart Wernham, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for the appellant; Mr Peter Fenn for the prosecution.

Judge erred over security for costs order

Allied General Holdings Ltd v Sorsky and Others. Before Lord Justice Neill, Lord Justice Millett and Lord Justice Phillips. [Judgment June 25]

When a judge hearing an interlocutory appeal based his decision on a possibility which was not stated in the evidence and which could not logically be inferred from it, he had misapprehended the case and erred in a material way which entitled the Court of Appeal to interfere with the exercise of his discretion.

In an action against several defendants the judge had erred in discharging an order for security for costs which had been made on the application of two defendants, on the ground that the plaintiffs' inability to provide security for those two defendants might possibly lead the plaintiff to abandon his genuine claim against the other defendants.

The Court of Appeal so stated when allowing an appeal by the third and fourth defendants, Melvyn Langley and Alan Stuart Bradstock, from a decision of Sir Mervyn Davies sitting in the Chancery Division on February 14, 1995 when he discharged an order for security for costs in the sum of £11,000 made by Master Monaster on September 26, 1994.

plaintiff, Allied General Holdings Ltd, was brought against five defendants of whom the first, second and fifth defendants were Harold Sorsky, Daniel Platt and Stewart Dymant.

Mr Paul Staddon for the third and fourth defendants; Mr Jonathan Russen for the plaintiff.

LORD JUSTICE PHILLIPS said that the five defendants were at the material time in 1988 practising as partners in a firm of accountants.

The nature of the plaintiffs' claim was that in December 1987 the first defendant, acting in his capacity as a partner, was making fraudulent misrepresentations which induced the plaintiffs to give him a cheque for £100,000 to purchase preference shares in JAG Group Ltd; that he and the partnership were under a duty to hold that cheque in trust until the issue of the shares and delivery of the share certificates; and that the first defendant paid the cheque into the bank account of JAG Estates Ltd, which was now insolvent.

The pleadings alleged dishonesty on the part of the five defendants. JAG Group Ltd and JAG Estates Ltd were the creatures of the partnership, and the partners were alleged to have constructive knowledge of the facts. The third and fourth defendants said that the transactions had nothing to do with the partnership. The other defendants admitted most of the material facts alleged but averred that the £100,000 was being held as a set-off against a debt of £100,000 owed by the plaintiff to the first defendant. It was denied that the firm was involved in the transaction.

When discharging the order for security for costs the judge had said that "it may be, no more, that the action will be abandoned if a security order is made against the plaintiff" and that it was "wrong to take a course which might stop the plaintiff from a genuine claim against all five defendants".

His Lordship said that since the judge was exercising a discretion the Court of Appeal should not interfere unless it was satisfied that he had erred in the principles he applied or proceeded on a wrong factual basis or was plainly wrong.

Diabetic driver dangerous

Regina v Marison. Before Lord Justice McCowan, Mr Justice McCallough and Mr Justice Toulson. [Judgment July 8]

When a diabetic driver, who was aware of his condition, had a real risk that he would have a sudden hypoglycaemic attack, got into his car and started to drive and such an attack occurred, resulting in his car veering, crashing into an oncoming vehicle and killing its driver, the defendant was guilty of dangerous driving.

His Lordship had grave doubts that dishonesty was the proper criterion rather than that the defendant was liable for the act of another partner. For the third and fourth defendants the trial assumed great importance and was one which they would not feel able to do other than to defend themselves in a manner which was likely to be expensive. They were therefore justified in seeking security for costs and the master's order was restored.

LORD JUSTICE MCCOWAN, giving the judgment of the court, said that the appellant changed his plea to guilty following a voir dire in which the judge found that the appellant was fully aware when he got in his car that he was prone to hypoglycaemic attacks without warning, that that constituted "circumstances of which he could be expected to be aware and of which he had knowledge, and that the facts in this case could amount to dangerous driving."

Holding was a decision

Farrington v The Queen. Where the Court of Appeal of The Bahamas had upheld a judge in refusing a prisoner a stay of execution pending the hearing of constitutional proceedings challenging the carrying out of his sentence of death, on the ground that they were bound to fail, but had not formally dismissed those proceedings, there had nevertheless been in substance and effect a "decision" of the Court of Appeal on the constitutional motion within article 104 of the Constitution, giving an appeal as of right to the Privy Council.

The Privy Council (Lord Keith of Kinkel, Lord Jauncey of Tullichettle and Lord Slynn) so held on June 17 when giving reasons for having, on May 22, granted the applicant, Ricardo Farrington, special leave to appeal against a decision of the Court of Appeal of The Bahamas (Mr Justice Gonçalves-Sabola, President, Mr Justice George, Justice of Appeal, and Mr Justice Liverpool, Justice of Appeal) dated May 6, 1996.

LORD KEITH said that although there was an appeal as of right the applicant special leave to appeal as a poor person. However, they wished to make it clear that even in a case where an appeal lay as of right it would be inappropriate to grant special leave where it was plain beyond rational argument that the appeal was doomed to fail.

LORD NICHOLLS said that it was a basic principle of the English and Hong Kong limitation statutes that time began to run against a lessee when he was dispossessed by a trespasser, and if continued for the prescribed period the adverse possession barred the rights to recover possession of the lessee and those claiming under him.

On determination of the lease the landlord was entitled to oust the squatter however long he might have been there. Those claiming through the landlord were similarly entitled, and so if he granted a new lease to the squatter could eject the squatter even if the lessee under the new lease was the same person as the lessee under the original lease.

However, if the original lease contained an option for the lessee to renew the lease the lessee had a right in respect of property which he could enforce against the landlord.

There was no reason why, as between him and the trespasser, his rights under the renewal option in the lease should not be defeated just as much as his other rights under the lease.

When he exercised the option he acquired a new legal estate by virtue of a right included in a lease whose title had been extinguished as against the trespasser.

Where a new lease was granted pursuant to a lessee's option in the original lease the right to bring an action to recover the land from a trespasser accrued to the lessee on the date of dispossession not from the date on which the new lease was granted, and after the prescribed period as against the trespasser the lessee's title to the new lease was extinguished.

Reasonable financial provision for widow

In re Krubert (Deceased). Before Lord Justice Nourse and Mr Justice Cazalet. [Judgment June 27]

Under the Inheritance (Provision for Family and Dependents) Act 1975 provision for a widow whose deceased husband had not made "reasonable financial provision" for her in his will depended on consideration of what would be reasonable in all the circumstances of her case.

The court in deciding the issue did not have to take as its starting point consideration of what she would have received had divorced instead of death deprived her but was to have regard to all the matters set out in section 3(1) and (2) of the Act.

The court in deciding the issue did not have to take as its starting point consideration of what she would have received had divorced instead of death deprived her but was to have regard to all the matters set out in section 3(1) and (2) of the Act.

By section 1(1)(a) of the 1975 Act a surviving spouse could apply for an order under section 2 of the Act that provision be made for her from the deceased's estate on the ground that his will had not made reasonable financial provision for her.

Section 3(1) of the Act set out the matters to which the court was to have regard in exercising its powers under section 2, including the financial resources and needs of such an applicant and of any beneficiary.

Section 3(2) provided that the matters to which the court was to have regard in exercising its powers under section 2, including the financial resources and needs of such an applicant and of any beneficiary.

LORD JUSTICE NOURSE said that the deceased, born in 1911, had married the applicant, now aged nearly 90, in 1950. They had no children. In 1952, having acquired a plot of land in his sole name, the deceased had built a house in which he and the applicant had thereafter lived. The £220 paid for the plot had been put up by the applicant.

The effect of the deceased's will was that the applicant was to take his personal chattels and £10,000 absolutely and a life interest in the house. The remainder of his estate, valued at total at some £100,000, was to go to the deceased's brother and sister.

The judge, in a full and careful judgment, directed himself by reference to the observations of the Court of Appeal in *Moody v Stevenson* ([1992] Ch 486, 499) that "in cases where the applicant is a surviving spouse, the logical starting point... would be an appraisal of the claimant's financial position at the date of the hearing (section 3(5))."

But the judge did not refer to *In re Besterman* ([1984] 1 Ch 458, 469) of an application under the 1975 Act by a surviving spouse that "the figure resulting from the section 25(1) of the Matrimonial Causes Act 1973 exercise is merely one of the

factors to which the court is to have regard" and the overriding consideration is what is "reasonable" in all the circumstances.

A conflict, if only one of emphasis, existed between those two decisions. It could cause problems for judges hearing such cases as first instance.

There was some evidence that the approach adopted in *Moody v Stevenson* might have caused confusion, especially in cases concerning small estates. That was understandable as on a divorce two parties had to be provided for on death there was only one.

The approach adopted by Lord Justice Oliver in *In re Besterman* was preferable and should be adopted accordingly.

Mr Jones's basic submission was that the judge's order awarding the applicant the redistribution of the deceased's estate beyond what was required to make reasonable financial provision for the applicant. The judge, he said, had effectively and unjustifiably rewritten the provisions of the deceased's will.

That submission was made out. The judge erred in principle in awarding the applicant an absolute interest in the house. The applicant, although in good health, was nearly 90. If she moved from the house it would be sheltered accommodation. No case was made out for giving her an absolute interest in the house.

The deceased in his will had not, however, made reasonable financial provision for the applicant's needs. In the circumstances, the reasonable course for the court to take was to direct that the applicant was to take an absolute interest in the whole of the assets of the estate except for the house in which she was to have a life interest.

Mr Justice Cazalet delivered a concurring judgment.

Solicitors: Richard Wilson & Co, Pangbourne; Campbell Hooper for Elwyn Jones & Co, Bangor.

Derisory offer refused

Khan v Official Receiver. A trustee in bankruptcy was not bound to dispose of an asset of the bankrupt at the only price offered for it if that price was derisory.

The Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Nourse and Mr Justice Cazalet) so held on June 18 when dismissing an application for leave to appeal against the dismissal of the applicant's application for judicial review under section 305 of the Insolvency Act 1986 by the appellant, Tahir Ali Khan, a bankrupt, that the respondent be ordered to assign a chose in action to him.

The appellant had offered up to £1,000 to the respondent for the right to pursue an action against his solicitors.

The right, held by him until his bankruptcy, had been vested in the respondent under section 306 of the 1986 Act.

LORD JUSTICE NOURSE said that the Official Receiver had made clear that he not only regarded the offer as derisory but also that the debtor's estate to pursue the action but that the creditors had not given an indication they would put up funds.

The Official Receiver was entitled not to accept the offer and it was not arguable that a trustee in bankruptcy was bound to dispose of an asset of the bankrupt at the only price which had been offered if that price was a derisory one.

Squatter's adverse possession of property

Chung Ping Kwan and Others v Lam Island Development Co Ltd. Adverse possession for the prescribed period barred a lease from asserting against a squatter a specifically enforceable right to renew the lease, and the legal estate which flowed from that right, as much as it barred the lessee from asserting against the squatter the other rights granted to him by the lease.

The Judicial Committee of the Privy Council (Lord Keith of Kinkel, Lord Jauncey of Tullichettle, Lord Nicholls of Birkenhead, Lord Slynn and Sir Christopher Slade) so held on July 8, in allowing an appeal by the appellants, Chung Ping Kwan.

He ran away and a rucksack discarded by him was found to contain lengths of string, sealing tape, a knife and other items.

Section 1 of the 1981 Act provides: "(1) If, with intent to commit an offence... a person does an act which is more than merely preparatory to the commission of the offence, he is guilty of attempting to commit the offence."

Mr John Aspinall, QC and Mr Christopher de Havas for the appellant; Mr John Tanzer for the Crown.

THE LORD CHIEF JUSTICE, delivering the judgment of the court, said that the appeal was concerned not with the correctness of the jury's decision but with the correctness of the judge's ruling of law that there was a case fit for the jury's consideration. Was the evidence sufficient in law to support a finding that the appellant did an act which was more than merely preparatory to the commission of the offence charged?

The cases showed that the line of demarcation between acts which were merely preparatory and acts which might amount to an attempt was not always obvious or easy to

recognise. There was no rule of thumb test. There must always be an exercise of judgment based on the particular facts of the case.

An accurate paraphrase of the statutory test under section 1(1) and not an illegitimate gloss on it was to ask whether the available evidence, if accepted, could show that a defendant had done an act which showed that he was actually trying to commit the act in question or whether he had only got ready or put himself in a position or equipped himself to do so.

There was no doubt about the appellant's intention. The evidence was clearly capable of showing no more than he made preparations, that he equipped himself, got ready and put himself in a position to commit the offence charged.

But was there evidence sufficient in law to support a finding that the appellant had actually tried or attempted to commit the offence of impersonating someone? Had he moved from the role of intention, preparation and planning into the area of execution or implementation?

He had entered the school but he had never had any contact or communication with any pupil.

The whole story was fraught with the greatest unease. Nevertheless, Lord Justice Nourse did not escape giving an answer to the fundamental question.

The contents of a rucksack, lengths of string, sealing tape, a knife and other items, might have given a clear indication of what the appellant might well have had in mind but did not throw light on whether he had begun to carry out the commission of the offence.

Their Lordships were bound to conclude that the evidence was not sufficient in law to support a finding that the appellant did an act more than merely preparatory to wrongfully impersonating a person.

Correction

In *R v Preddy* (The Times July 11) leading counsel for Preddy was Mr Ivan Krolak.

Correction

Solicitors: Edward Harter & Co, Brighton; Crown Prosecution Service, Brighton.

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NEWS

IRA bomb plot nipped in bud

An IRA plot to bomb gas, water and power installations and cause severe disruption to London and the South-East was halted by Scotland Yard detectives yesterday.

Hours before the first bomb was due to be primed, armed police struck at addresses in south London and discovered 36 devices under construction. Seven men were arrested. The targets would have included electricity switching centres, pumping stations and gas plants.

Botham hits out in court

Ian Botham went into the witness box in the High Court yesterday to defend himself against Imran Khan's allegations of cheating and racism. The former England cricket captain, who is suing Imran for libel, said: "To be called a cheat is something I take great offence to."

Law chief ousted

Martin Mears, the controversial president of the Law Society, was ousted from office last night after a knife-edge vote in which he polled 641 votes fewer than Tony Girling.

Coverage restricted

Reporting on the complex private life of the Third Baron Moynihan, who ran brothels in the Philippines, has been restricted by the High Court.

Widower's lifeline

The husband of Lin Russell, who was murdered with her daughter last week, said that having to help their elder daughter to recover kept him going.

Husband grounded

A pilot whose wife was struck by debris as he crash-landed his plane promised to give up flying. She is making a good recovery from head injuries.

US-Saudi clash

The US and Saudi Arabia clashed over the investigation into the terrorist bombing that killed 19 Americans and over the Pentagon's wish to move its forces to safer locations.

EU retaliation plan

European ministers prepared retaliation plans against the US if President Clinton fails to suspend aspects of a new law on trade with Cuba.

Yeltsin absent

Al Gore, the US Vice-President, appeared angry after arriving at the Kremlin for a meeting with President Yeltsin only to be told he had gone on holiday. The Russian leader was said to be resting.

Lestor withdraws

Labour's Shadow Cabinet elections took a fresh twist yesterday when Joan Lestor, the veteran left-winger, announced that she would not be standing in next week's poll.

Doctor returns

Edward Shaxted, the consultant gynaecologist convicted of indecently assaulting a waitress by putting his hand up her skirt is to return to work at Northampton hospital this week.

Siamese twins die

The Siamese twins who were born sharing a heart died last night. The baby girls died in their parents' arms.

Archbishop criticised

The Dean of Lincoln criticised the Archbishop of Canterbury for calling for his resignation and that of the sub-dean, saying it was "regrettable".

Royal divorce

In a bare, functional courtroom, the marriage of the Prince and Princess of Wales was provisionally ended in a legal production-line process lasting barely two minutes.

Television 'Friends' fall out over pay

Cast members of Friends, the American television sitcom, have threatened to go on strike. In an unusual bout of militancy, the show's stars, all of them highly bankable, are behaving in anything but an amicable manner towards their production bosses. They are demanding a minimum payment of \$100,000 (£64,000) each per episode.



Hindus bathe in holy waters in Bombay yesterday to mark the start of an astrologically auspicious festival. Elsewhere in India, however, the festival was marked by stampedes in which 60 people were suffocated or trampled to death. Report, page 11

BUSINESS

Energy shares fell: Shares of British Energy fell sharply, leaving private investors who backed the controversial privatisation of the operator of the eight most modern nuclear power stations with substantial losses.

Lloyd's vote: Lloyd's of London took a crucial step towards securing its future when thousands of names promised to pay £440 million towards the market's settlement package.

Jobs fear: More than 1,000 retail jobs are at risk after Escom UK, the computer retailer, was put into receivership.

Markets: The FT-SE 100 index fell 30 points to 3,698.3. The pound fell 12 cents to \$1.5008 and .73 pennings to DM2.3555.

SPORT

Golf: Tom Watson withdrew from the British Open because of a shoulder injury. He had played in the championship continuously since 1975.

Rugby Union: Officers of the beleaguered Rugby Football Union were locked in talks in an effort to break the deadlock that exists between them and the three other home unions.

Football: Karel Poborski, the Czech Republic midfielder, should today become a Manchester United player despite a resurgence of interest from Liverpool.

Cricket: England's women fought a remarkable rearguard action to escape with a draw in the third and final Test match with New Zealand.

ARTS

Scrap sculpture: A "glacial parable for our times" is how Richard Cork describes Michael Landy's disturbing sculpture, Scrapheap Services, which satirises the callous side of modern life.

Dublin's fair Féile: A three-day rock festival at the Point in Dublin attempted to recapture the spirit of the open-air festival, despite the heavy security.

Handel revived: Using mostly British musicians and singers, the Göttingen Handel Festival has revived interest in the composer's neglected operas.

Pop's missing goddesses: Why do female British pop singers find it difficult to sustain their careers? Will Cathy Dennis buck the trend with her new album?

FEATURES

Westminster lives: The final part of our series on the pressures of politics on family life, and how Tessa Jowell copes with being an MP, a wife and a mother.

Little girls in pretty boxes: When the Olympic Games start on Friday, the highlight for many will be women's gymnastics. But a new book suggests that the road to gold may be lined with physical and mental torture.

Hidden crimes: Casualty department statistics confirm the extent of unrecorded violence. How far should accident and emergency departments go in telling police about criminal behaviour?

Political judges: Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, has advised against a Bill of Rights for Britain because it could draw judges into making political decisions. James D. Zirin reports on America's debate on the workings of its judiciary.

THE PAPERS: We must put an end to the half measures and the hypocrisy which consists of leaving up to Milosevic the task of delivering his associates in Bosnia. There will be neither peace nor reconciliation in Bosnia without justice for the martyrs of Srebrenica.



TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

INTERFACE: How the new robots are learning from nature. Plus, win a £7,000 Hewlett-Packard laserjet colour printer.

FASHION: Iain R. Webb on Paul Frith's stylish move into the mainstream market.

TV LISTINGS

Preview: A Russian lawyer falls love with the killer she is prosecuting. True Stories (Channel 4, 9pm). Review: Peter Barnard on the rhetoric of a would-be Prime Minister.

OPINION

Continental shift: A Labour Party that took the pledge not to enter the European monetary union in the lifetime of the new Parliament would have both parliamentary time to pursue Blair agenda at home and be more likely to get elected in the fit place.

Pigs again: European lack of support for American efforts to put pressure on the Castro regime has rankled for many years and led directly to a current transatlantic crisis. Europeans, who say that their quarrel with America is over means rather than ends, would do well to re-examine their own policies towards Cuba.

Proportion in court: There is a clear public interest in the right to sit in the House of Lords. It is curious — at best — that The Judicial Proceedings Act which dates from 1926, should be used to inhibit coverage of the Moynihan case.

COLUMNS

ANTHONY HOWARD: The one way in which the amateur of the Scott Trust may now have a last chance to redeem their errors is by not standing idly by while The Observer, with its own distinctive character and personality, is gradually and remorselessly swallowed up into the great maw of The Guardian.

WOODROW WYATT: The mainland British have the great gift of being able to assimilate in language, custom and outlook immigrants of all races from everywhere in the world. That gift has failed to cross the Irish Sea.

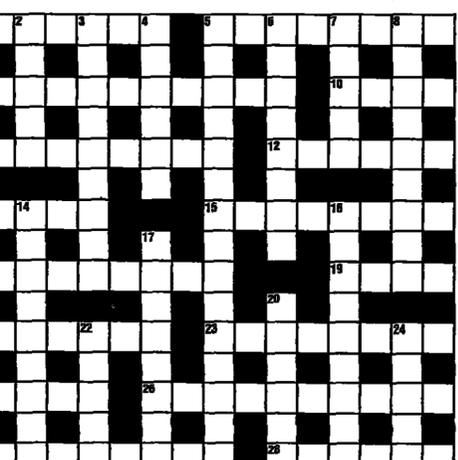
OBITUARIES

John Booda, publisher; Walter Hassan, engineer; Rajaj Kumar, Indian film actor.

LETTERS

Next steps in Ulster: London conference centre; the economy; Scottish and Welsh devolution; MPs' pay; 48-hour week.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,221



ACROSS
1 A doctor provided treatment, initially without purpose (6).
5 Infantry occupy secure position for advance (8).
9 Appropriate fact is once misconstrued (10).
10 Track of a wading bird (4).
11 In which a churchwarden may stand out (4-8).
12 Such endless air trouble for this early aviator (6).
13 Boss of the establishment relying on good breeding (4).
15 Period, last century, of Einstein's development (8).
18 Concern for others, expressed as a Liberal platitude (8).
19 Sounds like hounds or hunters, perhaps (4).
21 Brown coal left out to burn (6).
23 As supercilious as Caroline? (8).
25 Brandy to spoil concentration at first (4).
26 Estrangement from Natalie? No. I reform (10).
27 Whip, Conservative, is in hurry (8).
28 Apprentice does not begin to be a breadwinner (6).
DOWN
2 Sweltering in outskirts of Delhi in this? (5).
3 Idle characters gather round person in silly position? (9).
4 Order from Italy union wants to check (6).
5 Device used by post-impressionists? (8-7).
6 Like a good monk, taking to Bede in translation (8).
7 Jure of top quality? Sounds rougher (5).
8 Relaxed? Certainly, with Hawaiian garland on (9).
14 Paper shredder of great help (9).
16 Typewriter piece to be forbidden in the future, you say? (9).
17 Scholarly people among the elite, ratings-wise (8).
20 A place to meet and drive (6).
22 Is putting new metal in anvil (5).
24 With sweetheart, run (5).

WEATHER

Table with columns for region, sun, rain, cloud, drizzle, dust, fog, hail, snow, and wind. Includes regions like Greater London, Kent, Sussex, Devon & Cornwall, etc.

AA ROADWATCH

Table with columns for road number, sun, rain, cloud, drizzle, dust, fog, hail, snow, and wind. Includes roads like M25, M1, M4, etc.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Table with columns for location, highest temp, lowest temp, highest rainfall, lowest rainfall, highest sunshine, lowest sunshine.

FORECAST

General: England and Wales will be dry and fairly warm and most places will have some sunshine, the best of it in the west. Top temperatures will be slightly above normal, but the south and southeast will feel cooler in a fairly fresh northeasterly wind.

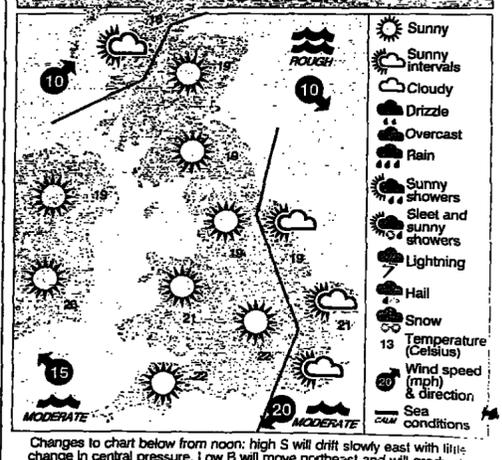
AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

Table with columns for location, sun, rain, cloud, drizzle, dust, fog, hail, snow, and wind. Includes locations like Aberdeen, Glasgow, London, Manchester, etc.

ABROAD

Table with columns for location, sun, rain, cloud, drizzle, dust, fog, hail, snow, and wind. Includes locations like Alicante, Athens, Algiers, Amst Om, etc.

NOON TODAY



HIGH TIDES

Table with columns for location, AM, HT, PM, HT, TODAY, AM, HT, PM, HT. Includes locations like London Bridge, Aberdeen, Avonmouth, etc.

HOURS OF DARKNESS

Table with columns for location, Sun rises, Sun sets, Moon sets, Moon rises. Includes locations like London, Bristol, Edinburgh, Manchester, etc.

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